

**A VISION OF FAIR
SPIRITS: AND
OTHER POEMS**

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A Vision of Fair Spirits: And Other Poems by John Graham

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JOHN GRAHAM

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SPIRITS: AND
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A VISION OF FAIR SPIRITS,

ETC. ETC.

A VISION OF FAIR SPIRITS,

AND OTHER POEMS.

BY

JOHN GRAHAM,

OF WADHAM COLLEGE.

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AND

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TO
THE REVEREND DR. WILLIAMS,
Head-Master of ~~the~~ Manchester College,

THE FOLLOWING POEMS

ARE MOST RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED

BY HIS FORMER PUPIL,

THE AUTHOR.

P R E F A C E.

SOME apology may be deemed necessary for the first of these Poems, inasmuch as it contains neither any connected story, moral, nor, in short, any of the usual requisites for a poem. Like an antique and broken bas-relief awkwardly arranged by the hand of some unskilful workman, it exhibits scarcely any traces of the original design : would that I could carry the resemblance farther, and say, that, though disunited, it was beautiful in mutilation, and atoned, by the indestructible beauty of its parts, for its want of regularity as a whole. But perhaps I am too bold in comparing it to an antique, although broken ; and

should rather liken it to the "capriccio" of a modern sculptor, where, on the same block, a number of grotesque and unconnected shapes are crowded together. Both, I presume, hold the lowest rank in the several arts of poetry and sculpture, and so far at least are liable to comparison.

A VISION OF FAIR SPIRITS.

Jan læta futuros

Expectat natura deos—nova numina rebus

Additè.—Claudian.

I.

THEIR'S was a bright mythology of yore,
Who walk'd with angel spirits to and fro
Along the pleasant earth, ere yet it bore
Its baneful fruit of bitterness and woe!
When man was godlike in his strength, and wore
The garb of immortality below—
And nought, save life, was needed to impart
Love's own intense religion of the heart!