

**HADAD: A
DRAMATIC POEM**

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Hadad: a dramatic poem by James A. Hillhouse

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JAMES A. HILLHOUSE

**HADAD: A
DRAMATIC POEM**

HADAD,

A DRAMATIC POEM.

BY JAMES A. HILLHOUSE,

AUTHOR OF PERCY'S MASQUE, AND THE JUDGMENT.

NEW-YORK :

PRINTED FOR E. BLISS & E. WHITE.

MDCCCXXV.

First ed.

Southern District of New-York, ss.

(L. S.) BE IT REMEMBERED, That on the seventeenth day of March, in the forty-sixth year of the Independence of the United States of America, E. Bliss & E. White, of the said district, have deposited in this office the title of a book, the right whereof they claim as proprietors, in the words following, to wit:

"Hastad, a Dramatic Poem. By James A. Hillhouse, Author of Percy's Masque, and The Judgment."

In conformity to the act of Congress of the United States, entitled, "An act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts, and books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the time therein mentioned." And also to an act, entitled, "An act, supplementary to an act, entitled, an act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts, and books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned, and extending the benefits thereof to the arts of designing, engraving, and etching historical and other prints."

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Clerk of the Southern District of New-York.

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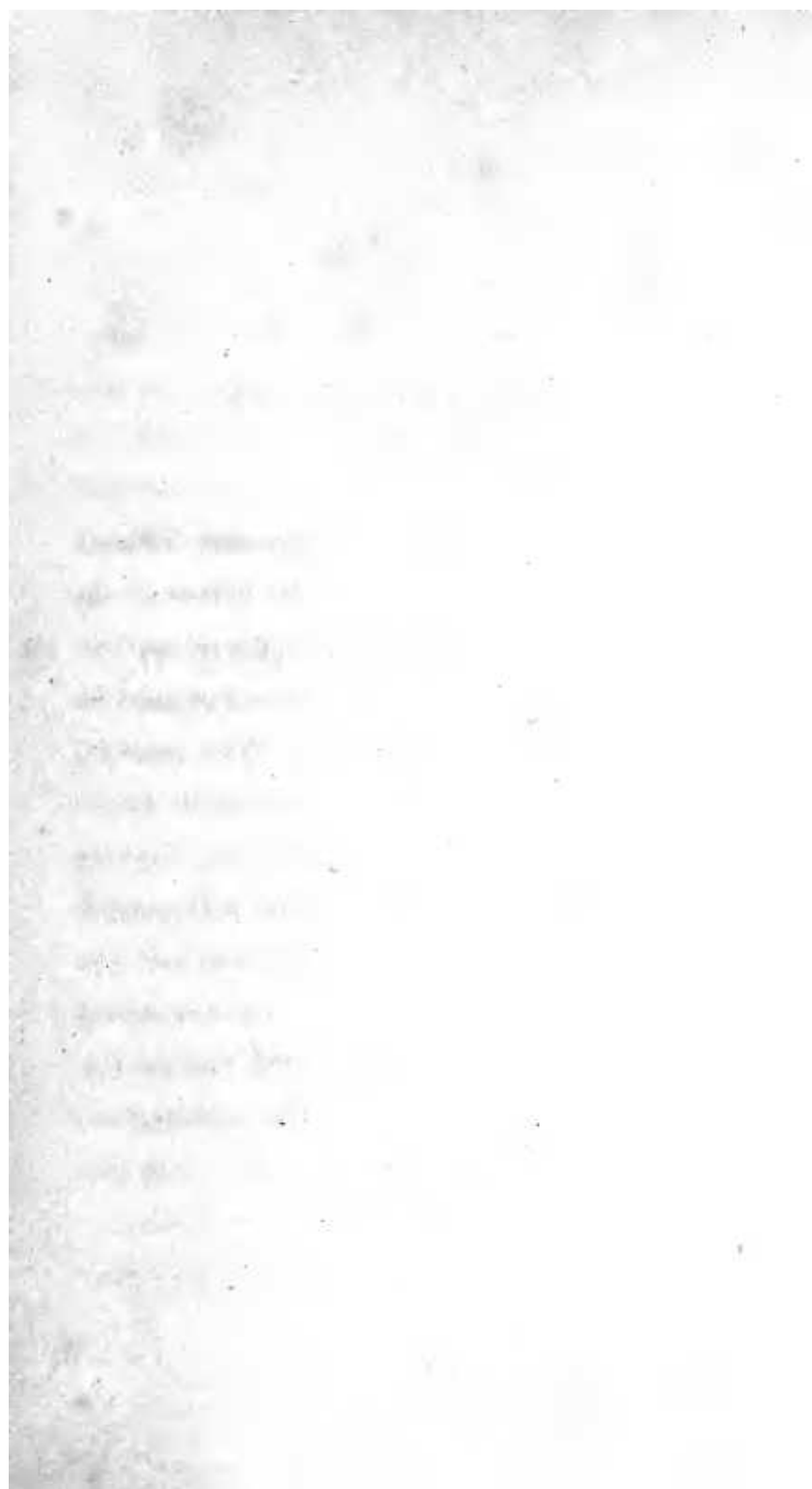
ABRAHAM BEACH, D. D.

AS A TESTIMONY OF AFFECTION.

THIS WORK

IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE belief in a former intercourse between mankind, and the good and evil beings of the Spiritual World, harmonizes with the solemn twilight of the scriptural ages, and is sustained by many declarations of Holy Writ. The passages involving that part of the doctrine which relates to the Fallen Spirits—for example, those reciting the necromantic power of the Egyptian Magicians, of the Sorceress of Endor, the passion and discomfiture of the Evil Angel, who was enamoured of the beautiful daughter of Raguel, and the Demonian possessions of a later period—are explained, by some paraphrasts, in a manner which precludes spiritual agency; but by most commentators, supported by the common faith of the Chris-

tian world, they are understood as simple narrations of actual occurrences. Dr. Clark affirms, that to every unprejudiced reader of the Sacred Writings, it is evident they represent those who dealt with Familiar Spirits, "as actually possessing a power to evoke the dead, to perform supernatural operations, and to discover hidden and secret things, by spells, charms, incantations, &c."* Dr. Gray, in his observations on the Book of Tobit, which he considers as entitled to the credit of an authentic historical narrative, remarks: "With respect to the agency of Angels, there is nothing inconsistent with reason, received opinions, or Scripture, in supposing a limited superintendence of Superior Beings. We know, indeed, that under the peculiar circumstances of the Jewish economy, the ministry of Angels was manifestly employed

* Adam Clark, note on the 18th ver. 22d Chap. Exod.

in subserviency to God's designs ; and that particular personages were occasionally favoured with their familiar intercourse. It is likewise unquestionable, that before the power and malevolence of Evil Spirits were checked and restricted by the control of our Saviour, their open influence was experienced."

Thus understood, the Scriptures offer scenes of unrivalled wildness and sublimity ; agents, whose power and attributes are of unknown extent, who connect, on the authority of our Faith, the visible with the invisible world. The reader will bear in mind, that the following pages relate to a people accustomed to preternatural occurrences ; and to a period, when the Diviner and the Mage not only enjoyed the confidence of the wise, and powerful of the earth, and influenced the affairs of empires, but are believed, by the learned of later ages, to have actually possessed, in some instances at least, superhuman art and knowledge.*

* Among others, Basil, Ambrose, Jerome, Turtullian—appear to