SKETCHES IN VERSE

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649171231

Sketches in verse by Robert Hutchinson Rose & Joseph Dennis

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd. Cover @ 2017

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ROBERT HUTCHINSON ROSE & JOSEPH DENNIS

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Trieste

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PRINTED FOR C. & A. CONRAD & Co. FHILADELPHIA,

BY SMITH & MAXWELL.

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PREFACE.

Most of the following "Sketches" have already appeared in The Port Folio; but as the former volumes of that Literary Journal are out of print, I have connected them in this form. The author, who loves the sylvan life, and courts Retirement, rather than Observation, shrunk, with no affected coyness, from the project of publishing these little poems, which were written merely to beguile "Time's tediousness," and, generally, in a humour so perfectly careless, that when he took up the pen, he knew not whether a stanza to Love, or a

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sonnet to Indifference would be the consequence. As my opinion of their merit differs from his, I take this method to get the criticks to decide between us. His sentiments of them will be best seen by the following letter to

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THE EDITOR.

TO JOSEPH DENNIE, ESQ.

DEAR DENNIE,

I SUBMIT the propriety of collecting the poetick trifles, which you mention, entirely to your own judgment; notwithstanding my assurance, that you will suffer it, in this instance, as you do in every thing which affects their author, to be biassed by your friendship. It wears no favourable appearance to have scribbled so many verses; but there are hours, in which the mind is in such a half active, half listless state, that if we have no friend by us to interest, nor book to amuse, it will recline itself upon any thing, rather than bear "the pains and penalties of idleness." At such times, and when, as Dr. Young says,

> Perhaps a title had my fancy hit, Or a quaint motto, which I thought had wit,

the most of them were written. If you really think them worthy of publication, they should have some very modest title; perhaps *Sketches* in Verse might do, as they are, at best, but a kind of chalk drawings. Your favourite, HORACE, could supply a motto, in the two last lines of his first Ode to Asinius Pollio, omitting the Dionaeo sub antro.

To the publication of the volume, however, I will consent only on the condition that it be addressed to you, as a triffing mark of my affection.

R. H. R.

SKETCHES IN VERSE.

THE STYLE OF THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY

IMITATED.

IF heavenlie beautye may thy passion move, If gentle courtesie can charme thy mynde, Let not thine eyes e'er stray to her I love; O liste not to her wordes moste swete and kynde ! Though swete and kynde her wordes, and voide of arte,

Yet colde Indifference dwelleth in her hearte.