

**THE ENGLISH LITERARY
PERIODICAL OF
MORALS AND MANNERS.
A DISSERTATION**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649509263

The English Literary Periodical of Morals and Manners. A Dissertation by John Griffith Ames

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

JOHN GRIFFITH AMES

**THE ENGLISH LITERARY
PERIODICAL OF
MORALS AND MANNERS.
A DISSERTATION**

With the Compliments of the Author

THE
ENGLISH LITERARY PERIODICAL
OF
MORALS AND MANNERS.

A DISSERTATION

SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF STUDIES FOR THE HONOUR
SCHOOL OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
OF OXFORD UNIVERSITY FOR THE DEGREE
OF BACHELOR OF LETTERS.

BY

JOHN GRIFFITH AMES, JR.

*Illinois College,
Jacksonville,
Ill.*

STANFORD LIBRARY

MT. VERNON, OHIO:
REPUBLICAN PUBLISHING CO.
1904.

390285

STANFORD LIBRARY

PREFACE.

The following essay is but a part of a larger work, which, if time and circumstances permit, I hope some day to complete. It is therefore necessary, in order that one may the better appreciate this section, to give at least a brief account of what the complete and larger work is purposed to be. The title of this complete work is to be "Observations Upon English Periodical Literature from the time of its first appearance to 1731."

If one stops for a moment to consider what the expression "English Periodical Literature" means, he will be able to form a rude idea of the scope of the work planned; but until he has examined for himself with some care the productions of the English periodic press between the years 1622 and 1731, he can form only the faintest conception of the mass of such literature, of its importance, of the influence which it exerted, or of the causes which awoke a growing demand for it throughout the British Empire. The term "Periodic Literature" is in itself vastly comprehensive, but it was scarcely less so at a period twenty years after the appearance of the first periodic publication of England than it is to-day. Into what numerous and diverse classes such literature of to-day may be divided need not here be discussed. After carefully examining the publications of this kind which were issued in the interval between the years above mentioned, I have thought it best to divide them into the following four general sections:

- I. Literary Periodicals of Morals and Manners.
- II. "Works of the Learned."
- III. Commercial, Economic and Industrial Periodicals.
- IV. Political Periodicals.

This it will readily be seen is merely an arbitrary division of the general subject, but one, I think, in which the different departments are distinct enough to enable each to be treated

more or less separately, which in a work of this magnitude is absolutely necessary. At the same time it will be found that representatives of the different sections occasionally overlap and include each other when their designs are not fixed hard and fast, and when their general fields of action bear even a slight affinity to one another.

The first section of this arbitrary division forms the subject of the following essay. Of the three remaining sections, circumstances necessitate my giving at present merely summary accounts based upon the materials I have already been able to gather. Each account will be brought down to the year 1731, when the "Gentleman's Magazine" first appeared. This periodical is more nearly a direct descendant of the class of publications included in the second division of the general subject than of the others, but for several reasons it is a convenient stopping point in each case. The "Gentleman's Magazine" marks the beginning of a new era in periodical literature. The modern magazine is heterogenous. In fact it contains, to a large extent, the salient features of all the sections into which I have divided the earlier periodicals.

It will be noticed that the publications which, for lack of a better name, I call the "Literary Periodicals of Morals and Manners" did not make their appearance until a comparatively late date; that is many years after the first appearance of the Newspaper and the Political periodical and no less than ten years after the appearance of the first Economic journal and the "Works of the Learned." The history of these earlier forms of periodical literature would naturally precede that of the later, but as the material which I have collected on those forms is still far from complete, I have thought it best to give it not by way of introduction, but in appendices. It would, perhaps, be most natural to begin these accounts with the Newspaper, but as this branch of Periodical Literature has been admirably treated in a work of two volumes by Mr. Fox-Bourne, and also in three volumes by Alexander Andrews, to say nothing of others, I have thought best to give only such an account of it, intricately intermixed as it is with Political Periodical, as will bring it down to 1702, the date of the first daily newspaper in England.

The appendices, therefore, must not be looked upon as integral parts of this essay on the Periodical of Morals and Manners. They are merely collections of notes designed to give some idea of the contents and scope of the other three sections that should make up the entire work.

My thanks are due to many persons who most kindly assisted me in my search for the material from which this essay has been constructed. In particular, however, I wish to express to Mr. C. H. Firth of Balliol and to Professor F. York Powell of Christ Church, Oxford, my sincerest appreciation of their helpful guidance and of the many kind words of advice and encouragement which they were ever ready and willing to give.

CHAPTER I.

JOHN DUNTON. THE ATHENIAN GAZETTE AND SIMILAR PERIODICALS.

Public journals before 1690, ⁽¹⁾ were, almost entirely, restricted to temporary news and politics; to the heated discussion of controverted subjects of an ecclesiastical character; to mere catalogues of books lately published; to papers written for the improvement of trade, and to sheets of nonsense. To an eccentric London bookseller, of an inventive turn, belongs the merit of discovering that a paper could be made to serve other ends than those of political or religious party strife, or of a transmitter of news. This man was John Dunton, who from his shop at the Sign of the Black Raven, opposite to the Poultry Compter, issued on Tuesday, March 17, 1690, "*The Athenian Gazette; or, Casuistical Mercury: Resolving all the most Nice and Curious Questions proposed by the Ingenious of either Sex*". This was a paper of one half sheet folio, the price of it a penny. Dunton's intention was to publish it weekly, but its popularity so increased that even after the third number it appeared twice a week, and after an existence of two years, so great was its success and so numerous its questioners, that an attempt was made to publish it four times a week. The effort, however, was too much for the editor and was given up.

Let us examine this new and curious production which so suddenly sprang into popularity, and for six years continued to divert and we may hope, instruct many thousands of our ancestors. To characterise it briefly it was the '*Notes and Queries*' of the 17th century. What the editor advertised in his title to do, he did regularly and punctually. The whole paper was carried on by questions and answers to the exclusion of all other matter. One can hardly imagine a more extraordinary

⁽¹⁾ See Appendices C. D. and E.