FROM BLAKE TO ARNOLD. SELECTIONS FROM ENGLISH POETRY (1783-1853)

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From Blake to Arnold. Selections from English Poetry (1783-1853) by James P. Pickburn & J. le Gay Brereton

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JAMES P. PICKBURN & J. LE GAY BRERETON

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BLAKE TO ARNOLD

SELECTIONS FROM

ENGLISH POETRY

(1783 - 1853)

WITH INTRODUCTION CRITICAL BSSATS, AND NOTES

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PREFACE.

A SELECTION like this is naturally based on accepted anthologies. The editor has especially referred to Mr. Henley's all-inclusive book of English Lyrics and Mrs. Meynell's more fastidious choice, The Flower of the Mind, the notes to which he has found most stimulating. Only one piece, the first chosen from Keats, has been included on other grounds than those of recognized poetic worth. It appeared important, as an illustration both of one element in Keats' poetic genius and of certain aspects of essential poetic theory, which the editor seemed to find more clearly exemplified in Keats than elsewhere in English verse.

That theory, in so far as he seems to himself to comprehend it, the editor has endeavoured to formulate in the first introduction, both because he considered this little book as likely to be, for some students, an introduction to poetry, and in need, therefore, of some expositions of the aims and means of that art, and because he himself derived no little benefit from the necessity of expressing, in connected sequence, thoughts which have been for some time habitual with him. He

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need hardly say that he counts on the generous co-operation of teachers in elucidating these considerations to the student.

Books to which he feels bound to express especial indebtedness are: Messrs. Ellis & Yeats' edition of Blake, Gilchrist's Life of Blake, and Mr. Laurence Housman's Writings of William Blake; Matthew Arnold's Poems of Wordsworth; Mr. Colvin's Selections from Landor and his Keats; Patmore's Principle in Art; the French translations of Poe by Baudelaire & Mallarmé; Professor Saintsbury's Matthew Arnold; and in merely philological matters, the Oxford and Century Dictionaries, and the concordances to Shakespeare of Mr. Bartlett, and to Milton of Bradshaw. The bulk of the linguistic notes is due to Messrs. Pickburn & Brereton; and Mr. Brereton has been especially helpful in comparing the text with that of the authentic editions.

SYDNEY, September 25th, 1899.

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