

**THE INFERNO OF DANTE
ALIGHIERI, TRANSLATED IN THE
TERZA RIMA OF THE ORIGINAL,
WITH NOTES AND APPENDIX**

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The Inferno of Dante Alighieri, Translated in the Terza Rima of the Original, with Notes and Appendix by Dante Alighieri & John Dayman

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DANTE ALIGHIERI & JOHN DAYMAN

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THE INFERNO

OF

DANTE ALIGHIERI,

TRANSLATED IN

1553

THE TERZA RIMA OF THE ORIGINAL,

WITH NOTES AND APPENDIX,

BY JOHN DAYMAN, M.A.,

RECTOR OF SHELTON, CUMBERLAND, AND LATE FELLOW OF CORPUS
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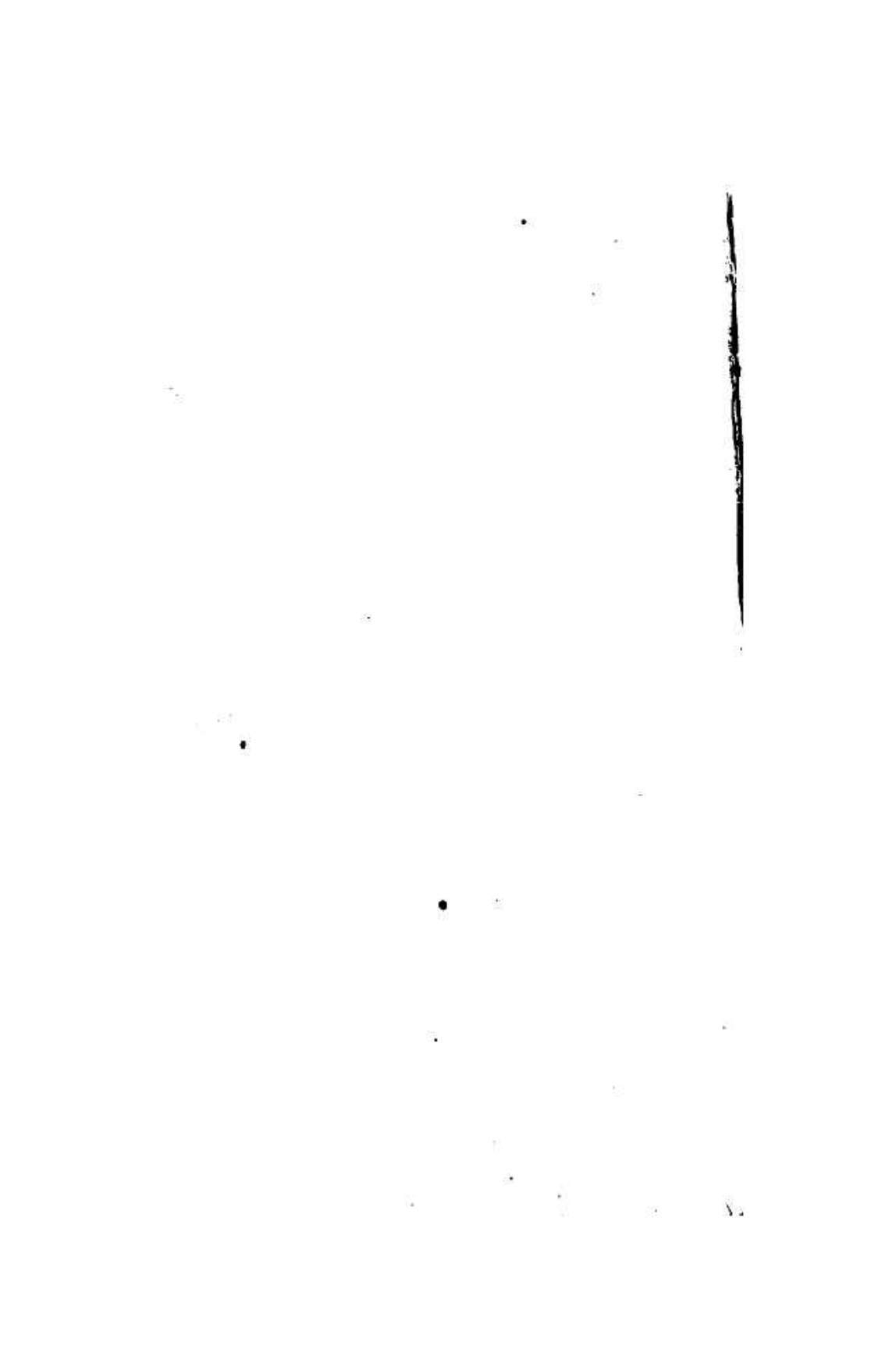
"Ibant obscuro sola sub nocte per umbram,
Perque domos Ditis vacuas, et inania regna"

ÆNEID. VI.

LONDON:

WILLIAM EDWARD PAINTER, 342, STRAND.

1843.



PREFACE.

It was intended to have prefaced the translation of Dante's "Inferno," which is here offered to the public, by some remarks on metrical structure, as subservient to the principal object of the Poet. Such observations would not have been unsuited to this *first* attempt (as far as I am aware) to present Dante to the English reader in the *Terza Rima* of his own choice; and to me they appeared almost necessary in self-justification, with a version so faithful and spirited, as I am told Mr. Cary's is, already in possession of the field.

But as those arguments would have added greatly to the length of the prefatory notice, they have been withheld, at the suggestion of friends; who have also induced me to suppress, for the same reason, a few criticisms on Dante's great poem,

viewed as indicating the character of the times in which he lived.

Nothing, therefore, remains but to enumerate, as concisely as possible, the authorities which have been followed in determining and illustrating the text. These are:—

I. The elaborate edition by Lombardi, published at Rome between the years 1791-1817; which would have been even more perfect than it is, if the learned editor had not betrayed an extravagant partiality for the Nidobeatine edition of 1478.

II. The edition by Antonio Buttura, published at Paris in 1823; which ordinarily, but not servilely, follows Lombardi.

III. Sansovino's edition, with the commentaries of Landino and Vellutello, printed at Venice by the Brothers Sessa in 1596, and profusely illustrated with wood-cuts. This curious old book has been consulted principally for the historical notices.

Besides these, occasional reference has been made (as the Notes will show) to the Parisian edition of Professor Biagioli, and,

more rarely, to that of the prejudiced Venturi.

By inspection of the Rimario appended to Lombardi's edition, it will be found that **Dante** has allowed himself, on more than one occasion, to use the same rhyme twice in the same Canto, and this license has been taken, though sparingly, in the following version.

In justice to myself, no less than others, I have rigidly abstained from making any acquaintance with the English translations which have preceded this ; and hence the candid reader will refer whatever coincidences he may discover to our common original.

The peculiarities of Dante's genius are too well known to make an excuse necessary here for the obscurity of occasional passages, which could hardly have been avoided, even by the unsatisfactory endeavour after a paraphrase, rather than a literal translation.

More than one account of Dante's life and fortunes having lately appeared in our

language, it will be sufficient to mention here, that the great Father of Modern Poetry was born at Florence, A.D. 1265, condemned to fine and banishment in January, A.D. 1302, and died at Ravenna September 14, A.D. 1321.

Skelton, June 1st, 1843.

THE INFERNO.

CANTO I.

ARGUMENT.—*Dante finds himself astray in a wood—Apparition of certain wild beasts—The shade of the poet Virgil presents itself, and invites Dante to follow.*

¹MIDWAY the journey of our life along,
I found me in a gloomy woodland dell,
The right road all confounded with the wrong.
Ay me ! how hard a thing it were to tell
How rough and stern and savage showed the
wood,
Which, yet remembered, yet is terrible !
Hardly were death more bitter. But the good
Which I therein discovered to unfold
Aright, will I of other things prelude
Encountered there. Yet ill by me were told
How first I entered, so entombed in sleep
My senses lay, what hour I ceased to hold