

**IMITATIONS OF
JUVENAL
AND PERSIUS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649611324

Imitations of Juvenal and Persius by Thomas Nevile

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THOMAS NEVILE

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AND PERSIUS**

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OF

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BY

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L O N D O N,

Printed for J. WOODYER, in Cambridge :
Sold by J. BEECROFT, in Pater-noster-row; J. DODSLEY,
Pall-mall; T. CADELL, in the Strand; M. HINGESTON
and W. BROWN, without Temple-Bar.

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P R E F A C E.

THE following Imitations complete my design of familiarizing to the young Reader the Roman Satire, consistently with my more immediate aim of delineating present manners. These are not accompanied, as the former, with the text entire: the unequal character of the Originals seems to demand this distinction: for surely nothing but an undiscerning zeal for Antiquity can rank these two Satirists among the models of correct Composition; the metaphorical disorder, the pedantic conciseness of the one, and the declamatory looseness of the other, being, one would think, too glaring to escape the sober and intelligent Critic. Not that they are by any

means to be put in the same class: the first appears to have had most in his eye the great Master that preceded; but by reason of an imagination not enough subservient to the rules of art, and a scrupulous attachment to a prudish Philosophy little favourable to the graceful freedom of satiric expression, he made a very imperfect use of so exquisite a model. I forbear [to enlarge upon their other anomalies so grossly injurious to the sublime moral they would inculcate. The sense of the indecent prejudices imbibed by some of the more early Restorers of polite literature is sufficient to justify all our fears in our dealings with Youth, and teach us to be nicely observant through what channels we convey instruction to tender minds.

Of the Moderns none perhaps more deserves the attention of the Learner than our own Ethic Poet; who, in the delicate arts of method, the finer finishings of curious expression,

expression, and a peculiar felicity, that reconciles dignity and ease, is without a Rival the first of his School.

THE application of Poetry to the purpose of moral improvement is agreeable to the opinion and practice of the most judicious in elder Greece: Οἱ παλαιοὶ (to speak in the words of the wise Geographer) ΦΙΛΟΣΟΦΙΑΝ τὴν ἀρίστην ΠΡΩΤΗΝ ΤΗΝ ΠΟΙΗΤΙΚΗΝ, εἰσαγάσαν εἰς τὸν βίον ἡμῶν ΕΚ ΝΕΩΝ, καὶ διδάσκουσαν ἴσθι, καὶ πάθει, καὶ πράξει, ΜΕΘ' ἩΔΟΝΗΣ.

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