THE BRITISH POETS. INCLUDING TRANSLATIONS; IN ONE HUNDRED VOLUMES, LXII: CHARLES CHURCHILL, VOL. II

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649405374

The British Poets. Including Translations; In One Hundred Volumes, LXII: Charles Churchill, Vol. II by Charles Churchill

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VOL. LXII.

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LXII.

CHURCHILL, VOL. II.

CHISWICK:

Printed by C. Bahittingham, college House;

FOR J. CARPENTER, J. BOOKER, BODWELL AND MARTIN, G. AND W. B. WHITTAKER, R. TRIPHOOK, J. EBERS, TAYLOR AND HESSEY, R. JENNINGS, G. COWIE AND CO. N. HAILES, J. PORTER, B. E. LLOYD AND SON, G. SMITH, AND C. WHITTINGHAM.

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OF

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CONTENTS.

	Let
THE Ghost	5
Gotham	148
The Times	205
Independence	227
Lines, written is Windsor Park	246
The Journey	247

POEMS OF CHURCHILL.

THE GHOST'.

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BOOK L

WITH eager search to dart the soul, Curiously vain, from pole to pole, And from the planets' wandering spheres To' extort the number of our years, And whether all those years shall flow Serenely smooth and free from woe, Or rude misfortune shall deform Our life with one continual storm: Or if the scene shall motley be, Alternate joy and misery, Is a desire which, more or less, All men must feel, though few confess. Hence, every place and every age

Affords subsistence to the sage Who, free from this world and its cares, Holds an acquaintance with the stars,

VOL. II.

¹ This desultory poem had for the basis of its formation the gross imposture of the Cock Lane Ghost, which was played off by the daughter of Parsons, a parish clerk.