

**REMAINS, HISTORICAL AND
LITERARY, CONNECTED WITH THE
PALATINE COUNTIES OF
LANCASTER AND CHESTER, VOL.
XXIII: A GOLDEN MIRROR**

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RICHARD ROBINSON

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A
GOLDEN MIRROUR.

CONTAINING

CERTAIN FITHLE AND FIGURATIVE VISIUNES
PROGNOSTICATING GOOD FORTUNE TO ENGLAND, AND ALL TRUE ENGLISH SUBJECTES,
WITH AN OVERTHROWE TO THE ENEMIES.

WHEREUNTO BE ADIOYNED CERTAIN PRETTIE POEMES WRITTEN ON THE NAMES OF
SUNDRIE BOTH NOBLE AND WORSHIPFULL.

BY RICHARD ROBINSON,
OF ALTON.

REPRINTED FROM THE ONLY KNOWN COPY OF THE ORIGINAL EDITION OF 1589
IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM,

WITH AN INTRODUCTION AND NOTES

BY

THE REV. THOMAS CORSER, M. A., F. S. A.,

RURAL DEAN, RECTOR OF STAND, LANCASHIRE, AND VICAR OF NORTON,
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

PRINTED FOR THE CHETHAM SOCIETY.
M.DCCC.LI.

MANCHESTER:
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INTRODUCTION.

AS Cheshire forms one of the Counties within the peculiar province of the Chetham Society, the Editor has been induced to undertake the reprinting of a work, consisting of poetical addresses to many of its by-gone proprietors, the representatives of some of its ancient families in the time of Elizabeth. An attentive examination of the volume induced him to believe that many others besides himself would derive gratification from its perusal and possession : some from local affection and associations, and others from their attachment to early English poetry and literature. To each of these, this volume will have its attractions : for though the lines are occasionally rough, unmeasured, and uncouth, there is much strength in the expressions, and a high tone of morality and religion pervades the whole : and in the terms which are used, and in the construction adopted, will be found objects of interest

to those, who are fond of tracing the progress of our language at a period when it was moulding itself into form, and approaching to the vigour of its maturity.

Richard Robinson, the author of these "pithie and figuratiue Visions," is merely called by Proctor, their purchaser and publisher, "a Gentleman of the North Countrey," but whatever may have been the county that gave him birth, of which we have no positive or direct evidence, it is quite clear from that contained in the work itself, that Cheshire was that part of the North, with which the author was more immediately connected; for almost all the poems are "rare inuentions pend vpon the Ethimologie of the names, of diuers worthy personages inhabiting the gentle natured countrey and Countie of Chester," whom he commends for various good qualities and virtues, with a feeling of partiality and affection not usually exhibited towards any district, with which the eulogist does not happen to have some close personal connexion. And as he generally uses the term "countrey" for county, it is probable that he means to limit his expression to Cheshire, when he desires his reader, to "iudge upon the sense, if hee haue knowledge to vnderstand me, according to my good and faythfull meaning to my Countrey." About the name of the Author of these Visions there is no doubt, though Proctor does not mention it, and he himself does not subscribe it to his "Epistle to the gentle Reader," for he is twice addressed as Robinson in "the last Dreame that Morpheus did showe vnto" him; and the initials of the lines of "The Authours name in Verdict" disclose to us