

**THE POEMS OF
LORD HERBERT OF
CHERBURY**

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The poems of Lord Herbert of Cherbury by John Churton Collins

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JOHN CHURTON COLLINS

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CHERBURY**



THE
POEMS OF LORD HERBERT
OF CHERBURY

EDITED
WITH AN INTRODUCTION
BY
JOHN CHURTON COLLINS



LONDON
CHATTO AND WINDUS, PICCADILLY
1881

30532
26/11/9



I INSCRIBE
THIS LITTLE VOLUME
TO MY FRIEND
WILLIAM BAPTISTE SCOONES,
AN
IMPERFECT EXPRESSION
OF
ESTEEM AND AFFECTION.





PREFACE.

WHETHER *the Poems, which are here for the first time presented in a modern dress, be of intrinsic value the reader will soon determine for himself. I have at least brought Herbert before the Court; and I have, I hope, secured him a fair hearing. Henceforth he will not be condemned unheard.*

With regard to the text, I have adhered with scrupulous fidelity to that of the original edition; and I have collated the only two copies to which I could obtain access—the copy in the British Museum, and the copy in the Bodleian Library at Oxford—without, however, discovering any variety of readings. My principal difficulty has been with the punctuation, on which, of course, the sense of passages frequently depends; and for this I have often had no guidance

from the original, which teems with palpable errors. The spelling has also been carefully revised, and though it has been for the most part modernised, I have thought it well to retain, in some cases, the older forms, so as to preserve the flavour of archaism. Obvious misprints have been silently corrected. In two passages only I have ventured to alter the text, and they both occur in 'The Idea.' In the seventh line the original reads 'bear,' which, as it makes no sense, and breaks the rhyme, I alter into 'bar.' Again, in the last line, 'whence' is substituted for 'when.' And for this reason. Herbert is alluding to the Platonic doctrine of ideas, and it is much more natural to suppose that he would speak of an idea whence the form began than of an idea when the form began. Though he is mistaken in supposing that the Platonic ideas admit of application to particular individuals, he was evidently acquainted with the 'Timeus' and with the 'Republic.'

J. CHURTON COLLINS.



CONTENTS.

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION	XV
ORIGINAL TITLE	XXXV
ORIGINAL PREFACE	XXXVII
TO HIS WATCH WHEN HE COULD NOT SLEEP	1
DITTY	2
A DESCRIPTION	3
TO HER FACE	6
TO HER BODY	7
TO HER MIND	8
UPON COMBING HER HAIR	10
DITTY IN IMITATION OF THE SPANISH ENTRE TANTOQUE EL'AVRIL	12
THE STATE PROGRESS OF ILL	14
SATYRA SECUNDA OF TRAVELLERS FROM PARIS	20
'I MUST DEPART, BUT LIKE TO HIS LAST BREATH'	24
MADRIGAL	25
ANOTHER	27

	PAGE
TO HIS FRIEND BEN JOHNSON, OF HIS HORACE MADE ENGLISH	28
EPITAPH CÆCIL BOULFER QUÆ POST LANGUESCEN- TEM MORBUM NON SINE INQUIETUDINE SPIRITUS, ÆC. CONSCIENTIÆ OBIIT	29
EPITAPH GULI. HERBERT DE SWANSEY QUI SINE PROLE OBIIT, AUG. 1609	31
IN A GLASS WINDOW FOR INCONSTANCY	32
ELEGY FOR THE PRINCE	33
EPITAPH OF KING JAMES	36
A VISION. A LADY COMBING HER HAIR	37
TEARS FLOW NO MORE	39
DITTY TO THE TUNE OF 'A CHE EL QUANTO MIO' OF PESARINO	40
DITTY	41
EPITAPH OF A STINKING POET	43
A DITTY TO THE TUNE OF 'COSE FERITE,' MADE BY LORENZO ALLEGRE TO ONE SLEEPING. (<i>To be sung</i>)	44
EPITAPH ON SIR EDWARD SACKVILLE'S CHILD, WHO DIED IN HIS BIRTH	45
KISSING	46
DITTY	47
ELEGY OVER A TOMB	49

Contents.

xi

	PAGE
EPITAPH ON SIR FRANCIS VERE	51
TO MRS. DIANA CECYLL	52
TO HER EYES	54
TO HER HAIR	56
SONNET OF BLACK BEAUTY	58
ANOTHER SONNET TO BLACK IT SELF	59
THE FIRST MEETING	60
A MERRY RIME, SENT TO THE LADY WROTH UPON MY L. OF PEMBROKE'S CHILD, BORN IN THE SPRING	64
THE THOUGHT	65
TO A LADY WHO DID SING EXCELLENTLY	67
MELANDER, SUPPOS'D TO LOVE SUSAN, BUT DID LOVE ANN	69
ECHO TO A ROCK	70
ECHO IN A CHURCH	72
TO HIS MISTRESS FOR HER TRUE PICTURE	74
EPITAPH ON SIR PHILIP SIDNEY, LYING IN ST. PAUL'S WITHOUT A MONUMENT, TO BE FASTENED UPON THE CHURCH DOOR	80
EPITAPH FOR HIMSELF	81
SONNET	82
TO THE C. OF D.	83
DITTY	84
ELEGY FOR DOCTOR DUNN	86