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**THOMAS LOVELL BEDDOES & EDMOND GOOSE**

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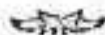




The Great Entrance  
1845

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THE  
POETICAL WORKS  
OF  
THOMAS LOVELL BEDDOES



EDITED, WITH A MEMOIR, BY  
EDMUND GOSSE  
*Hon. M.A. of Trinity College, Cambridge*

*WITH ETCHINGS BY HERBERT RAILTON*



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DEATH'S JEST-BOOK.



[This play was published anonymously by Kelsall as "Death's Jest-Book; or the Fool's Tragedy. London, William Pickering, 1850." It was begun at Oxford in 1825, and was altered and touched up by Beddoes until near the close of his life. There exist three distinct MS. texts of this play. Of these the first, prepared for publication in 1832, bears the title: "Charonic Steps. A dramatic annual for 1833. Containing Death's Jest-Book, a dithyrambic in the florid Gothic style. By Theobald Vesselidocum." This pseudonym was altered to "Wuldred Sword-Bearer" and to "Sir Theobald Crimbottle," being finally discarded altogether. The second text is substantially that which Kelsall printed. The third, of which Act the First only exists, is entitled: "Death's Jest-Book; or the Day will Come." In the present reprint the text of Kelsall is adhered to, except in one or two instances where it has appeared to the editor that text A gives a better reading.]