

**BABBICOMBE, OR
VISIONS OF MEMORY,
WITH OTHER POEMS**

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Babbiccombe, or Visions of Memory, with Other Poems by Matthew Bridges

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MATTHEW BRIDGES

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LONDON SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, & Co.

MCCCXLIV.

BABBICOMBE,

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VISIONS OF MEMORY,

WITH OTHER FORMS:

BY

MATTHEW BRIDGES, Esq.

AUTHOR OF THE HISTORY OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE
UNDER CONSTANTINE THE GREAT,
ETC., ETC.

LONDON:

SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, AND Co.

MDCCLXII.

TO
HENRY CRANMER MARCH PHILLIPPS,
ESQUIRE,
OF
WELLSWOOD,

AS A MEMORIAL OF HIS LIBERAL AND TASTEFUL EXERTIONS
IN AFFORDING TO THE PUBLIC MANY MEANS
OF ACCESS TO THE BEAUTIFUL SCENERY
IN HIS NEIGHBOURHOOD,

THIS VOLUME IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED
BY
THE AUTHOR.

PREFACE.

THE longest of these poems was the result of some solitary walks, in the vicinity of that beautiful spot, which has furnished a title to the present volume. Saul the Son of Cis is a composition slightly altered, which first saw the light in a very early publication put forth by the author, under an assumed name, nearly twenty years ago. The Italian Pieces were principally written on the sites to which they allude; during a continental tour in 1821 and 1822.

The reader is requested not to peruse the narrative of Lesley, commencing page 50, until careful reference shall have been made to an annotation at the end of the work. The latter is essential to a due comprehension of the story. It may also be mentioned, that the illustrious university thereby apparently incul-

pated, is not the Oxford of our own times, but rather of an age, which it is devoutly to be trusted has passed away; when the practical test of honour and orthodoxy was the quantity of port wine, that could be imbibed in the combination-room, without laying both body and soul ingloriously under the table! Whether Alma Mater may not have retained a few traces of academical peculiarity, not to say theological subtlety, arising perhaps from her former habits, is a question upon which various conclusions will be entertained by different parties.

Whatever may be thought of the literary merits of the subsequent sheets, there will probably exist little difference of opinion as to their typographical beauty. Seldom in the provinces, and especially at so great a distance from London, can the neatness and accuracy of execution be surpassed, which are here displayed by the respectable printer, for whose entire benefit this edition of Babbicombe appears. Left by a severe domestic bereavement, to struggle on in the world, with his desolate family, an appeal is thus made with respectful confidence to the sympathy of a generous

public, which is rarely found to fail in effectually alleviating sorrow, or supporting artistical skilfulness. Probably neither writers, nor readers, can be better employed, as to the ordinary affairs of this life, at the present crisis, than in endeavouring to lessen the pressure of commercial difficulty, amongst our middle classes; constituting as they do the nucleus of national wealth, as well as the best sources of its future preservation and prosperity.

Torquay, 20th January, 1842.