

**BRASENOSE ALE: A COLLECTION
OF POEMS PRESENTED
ANNUALLY BY THE BUTLER OF
BRASENOSE COLLEGE ON
SHROVE TUESDAY**

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Brasenose Ale: A Collection of Poems Presented Annually by the Butler of Brasenose College
on Shrove Tuesday by Various

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VARIOUS

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BRASENOSE ALE.

A COLLECTION OF POEMS

PRESENTED ANNUALLY

BY THE BUTLER

OF

BRASENOSE COLLEGE

ON SHROVE TUESDAY.

*Στείλω ταῖς Μοῖσαις. ἃ χαίρετε πολλὰκι Μοῦσαι,
χαίρετ' ἐγὼ ὅς ἔμμις καὶ ἐς ἄνερον ἔδειον ἔσθι.*

THEOCR. ID. I.

OXFORD:
PRINTED FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION,
BY J. VINCENT.
1857.

INTRODUCTION.

A SERIES of Poems is here presented on a theme abundantly familiar to all Members of B. N. C. ; for whom alone, in all probability, the following pages will possess any interest. To them it may seem almost superfluous to mention that the Butler of the College is bound by immemorial custom to produce in Hall annually on Shrove Tuesday a copy of Verses in praise of the College Ale : accompanying which, a special brew is made for the day, and supplied *ad libitum* to every inmate of the College.

Though of late these Verses have been printed on each annual occasion, a desire has been expressed in many quarters for a compilation of such as are extant, whether in print or manuscript, in a form which might better conduce to their preservation. This desire is now acted upon : and it is hoped that, with all their faults, these ephemeral compositions, thus rescued from oblivion, will not be denied the interest of old associations.

The Butler feels it incumbent on him to state that, though personally responsible for the production of the panegyric, his acknowledgments are due to the Junior Members of the College, from some of whom he has never failed, on his request, to obtain a kind supply. This species of literary complicity is believed to have been always an understood arrangement; and may be traced by living tradition as far back as the time when the office of Butler was filled by a brother of Dr. Barker, formerly Principal of the College. The authorship thus acknowledged will suggest an explanation of the style employed in many of these effusions; and will, no doubt, furnish an apology, if such be needed, for a certain amount of personal license, from the application of which it will be observed that the Butler himself has not been allowed to remain exempt: though, in strict theory, it might be considered that he ought to appear as the spokesman in each poem.

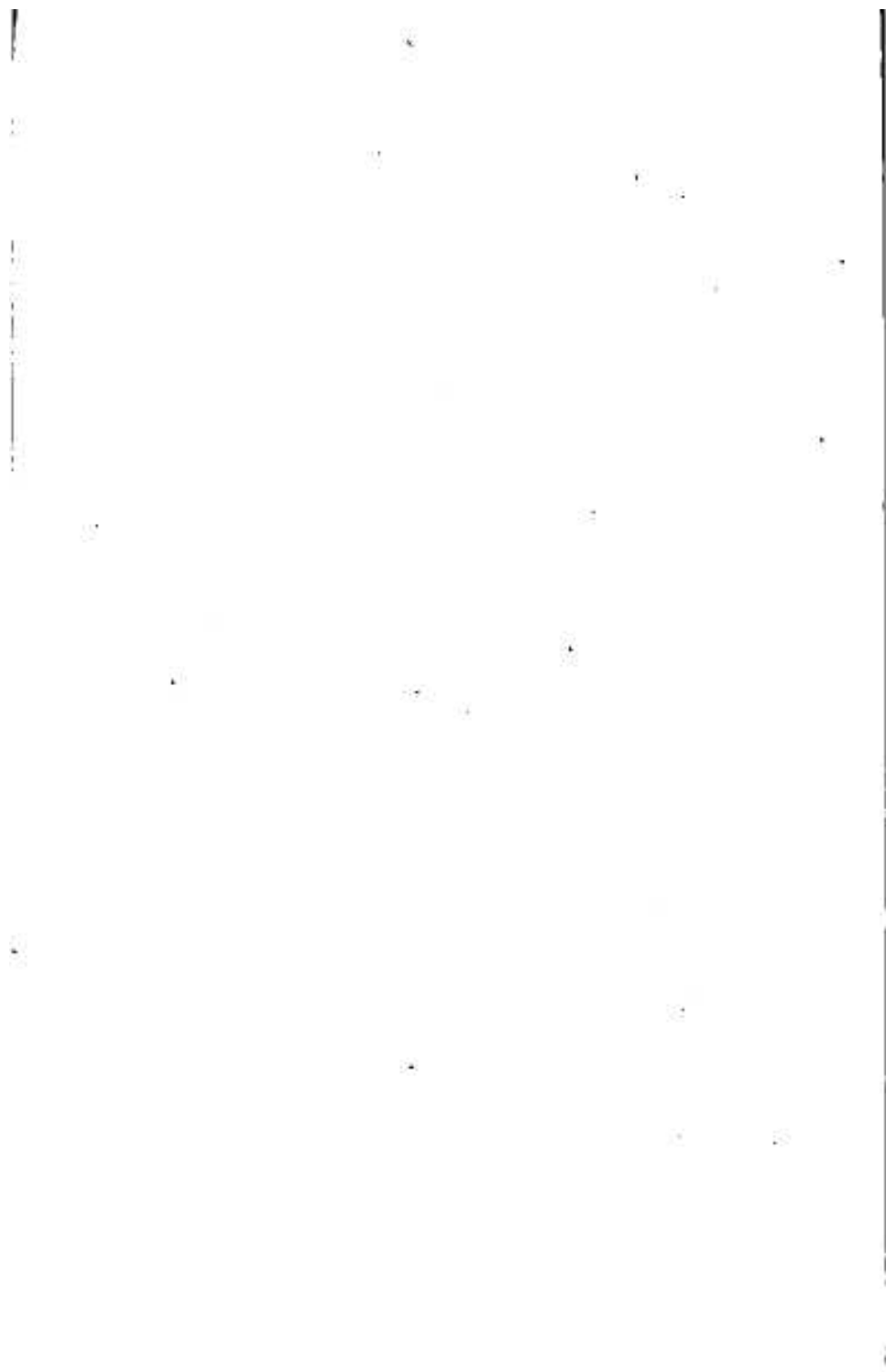
Something should, perhaps, be added in explanation of the circumstance that more than one set of Verses are given, in some recent instances, for the same year; which will also allow a word to be said as to the principle of selection, if it may be so called, which has been annually pursued. The Butler, not having ventured to exalt his official *laudes* to anything like the dignity of a prize-poem,

or to propose a general competition for their supply, has usually mentioned his wish to some gentleman by whom he thought he should be obliged. On receiving, in consequence, a suitable provision, he has felt bound at once to accept it. After, however, being thus pledged, other poems have sometimes been handed to him, which he would have had equal pleasure in adopting. The present publication has afforded him an unusual opportunity of offering amends by adding some of the latter to his collection; in which they are distinguished from the rest by an asterisk affixed to the date.

Should any Members of the College or their friends possess copies of earlier compositions connected with this series, they would greatly oblige the Butler by kindly forwarding them to him, with a view to their insertion in a second edition, if a reprint of this volume should be hereafter desired.

J. PRIOR.

BRASENOSE COLLEGE,
MICHAELMAS TERM, 1856.



BRASENOSE ALE.

ALL ye, who round the Buttery hatch,
With patient expectation watch,
Our barrels to assail ;
Come, listen, while with pleasing gibe,
The rare ingredients I describe,
That float in Brasenose Ale.

The Butler's is a druggist's shop,
Alike devoid of malt and hop,
But Quassia's draughts prevail ;
Alum the sparkling liquor clears,
And mimic wormwood's bitter tears
Compose our Brasenose Ale.

All ye, who physick have profess'd,
" Sir Kit," or " Potecary West,"*
Your practice gone bewail !
The burning mouth, the temple's throb,
Sick stomach, and convulsive throb,
Are cured by Brasenose Ale.

* " Sir Kit" and " Potecary West." The one celebrated as a Physician, the other as an Apothecary, in Oxford.

As poisons other poisons kill,
 So whose with convivial swill
 Dares Syme's* wine assail,
 Or Latimer's immortal Tun,
 Hight Herbert or Lord Abingdon,
 His cure is Brasenose Ale.

The fair Cheltonia's opening salt,
 Must yield to our factitious malt,
 What double sounce can fall?
 But should you want some tonic stuff,
 You speedily will find "quant. suff.,"
 A gill of Brasenose Ale.

Oh, that our Bursar would consent
 To give the Bottled Porter vent,
 Porter beloved by Dale,
 Smuggled no more by Joey's stealth,†
 It would improve the College health,
 Impaired by Brasenose Ale.

* Syme and Latimer were Wine Merchants in this City. The latter, some twenty years ago, bought a small quantity of wine from Lords Herbert and Abingdon, and sold to Freshmen under those attractive names.

† Porter, which had been bought for common use, but had been often smuggled by one of the Fellows.