

**EARLY ENGLISH POETS.
THE COMPLETE POEMS
OF GILES FLETCHER, B.D.**

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Early english poets. The complete poems of Giles Fletcher, B.D. by Giles Fletcher & Alexander B. Grosart

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GILES FLETCHER & ALEXANDER B. GROSART

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OF GILES FLETCHER, B.D.**

Early English Poets.

THE
COMPLETE POEMS
OF
GILES FLETCHER, B.D.

EDITED,
WITH
Memorial-Introduction and Notes,

BY THE
REV. ALEXANDER B. GROSART.



London:
CHATTO AND WINDUS, PICCADILLY.
1876.

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Preface.

I INCLUDED the Poems of the FLETCHERS very early in my Fuller Worthies' Library; and within a few months of their private issue, the entire impressions were distributed among my fellow-students and lovers of our elder poetic literature. The number of copies (106 8vo, and 156 12mo) was so limited that I have had since to disappoint many applicants from far and near. It gives me accordingly no little pleasure to respond to the wish of the Publishers that I should furnish certain of the Fuller Worthies' Library to the general public. Giles will pave the way for Phineas Fletcher; and the Fletchers, with Sir John Davies and Sir Philip Sydney, which are to be almost contemporaneously published, afford access to a wider circle to some of those literary treasures that *for the first time* it has been my privilege to collect and edit critically and worthily.

Throughout I have re-collated every line and word with the Author's own texts—not without advantage in various ways, in that my earlier Worthies were printed at a provincial press, and with un-instructed and merely mechanical workmen, so much so that even a second and third revise-proof failed to secure attention to my corrections.

I add to this new edition of Giles Fletcher a bright little poem from the Tanner MSS., first printed by me as an appendix to his *Father's Poems* ("Licia," &c.) in the *Fuller Worthies' Miscellanies*. I have also been enabled to add to the facts and criticisms of the Memorial-Introduction. As a Maker of real and unique genius, Giles Fletcher is only in these later days winning his deserved renown. By his great poem he has never ceased to hold across the centuries the "fit audience tho' few;" and to-day he is a living *motif* and impulse in the line of "Sursum:"

"Onward and upward, whatever the way;
Gloomy or glad, through darkness and day:
Vow'd to the end, be it distant or soon,
Under the banner of Christ to march on;
Strong in His armour to war against ill;
With a will, with a will,
Onward and upward."¹

ALEXANDER B. GROSART.

FROM MY STUDY,
St George's, Blackburn, Lancashire.

¹ Hymns by F. T. Palgrave, 1870 (Macmillan), 3d ed.

To

FRANCIS TURNER PALGRAVE, ESQ.,

late Scholar of Balliol and Fellow of Exeter College, Oxford ;

a

" Sweet Singer "

and a

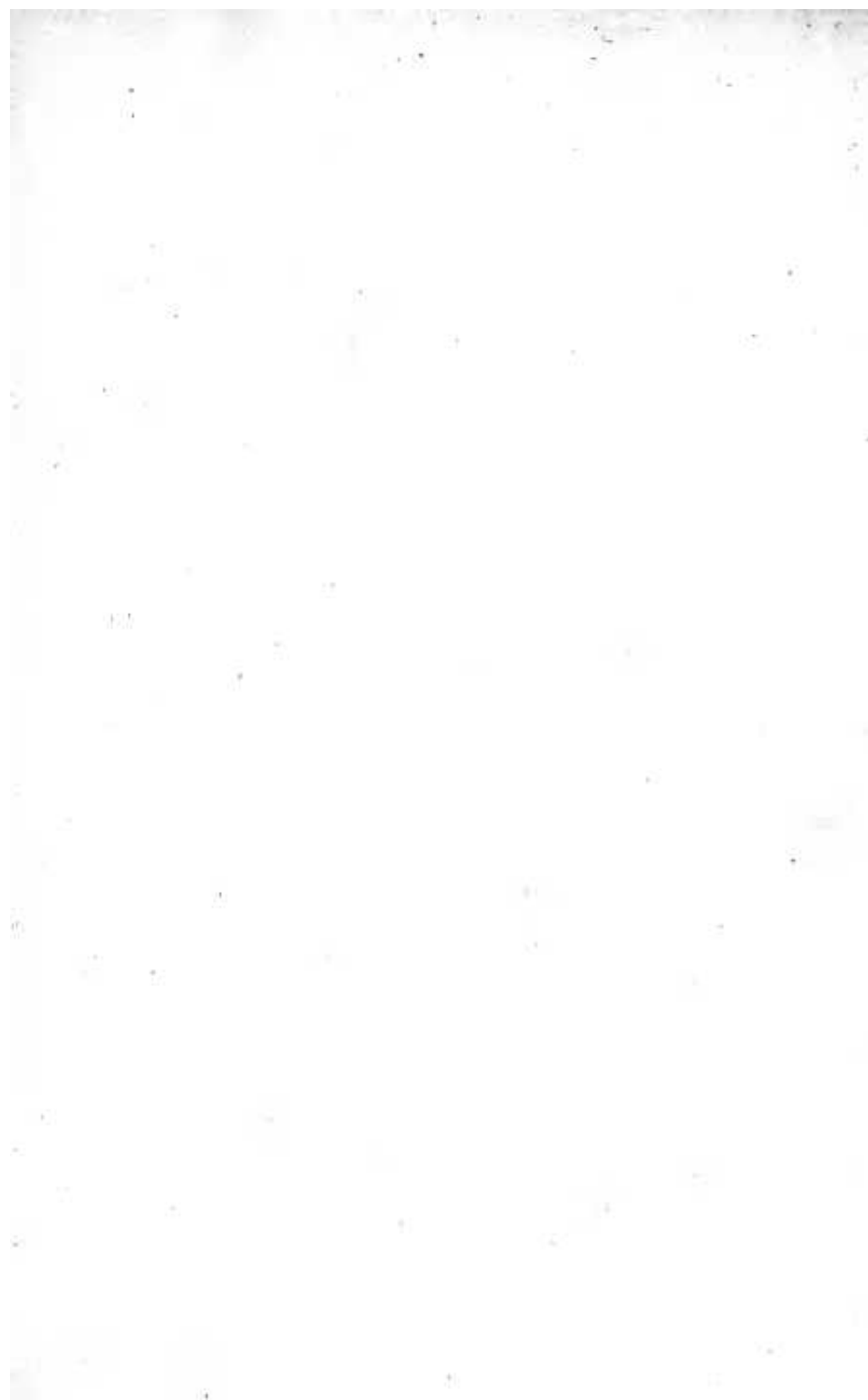
Penetrative and judicially-deliberate Critic ;

Æ Dedicare

This first complete and worthy edition of an old Poet :—

Very faithfully and admiringly,

ALEXANDER B. GROSART.



Contents.

	PAGE
I. PREFACE	v
II. DEDICATION	vii
III. MEMORIAL-INTRODUCTION—I. BIOGRAPHICAL	I
" " II. CRITICAL	45
NOTE.—DR GEORGE MACDONALD'S 'ANTIPHON' ON JUSTICE AND MERCY AS PERSONIFIED IN 'CHRIST'S VICTORIE'	94
IV. CHRIST'S VICTORIE AND TRIUMPH	101
V. EPISTLE DEDICATORY TO NEVILLE	109
VI. NETHERSOLE TO DR NEVYLE	112
VII. TO THE READER	113
VIII. PRELIMINARY POEMS BY PHINEAS FLETCHER AND NETHERSOLE	119
IX. CHRIST'S VICTORIE IN HEAVEN	125
X. CHRIST'S VICTORIE ON EARTH	161
XI. CHRIST'S TRIUMPH OVER DEATH	191
XII. CHRIST'S TRIUMPH AFTER DEATH	221
XIII. LATIN VERSES BY THE AUTHOR AT END	244
XIV. APPENDIX, CONTAINING 'LINES' FROM THE ENGRAV- INGS OF THE EDITION OF 1640	245
XV. CANTO ON THE DEATH OF QUEEN ELIZABETH FROM 'SORROWE'S JOY'	251
XVI. AFTER PETRONIUS	256
XVII. TRANSLATION-VERSES FROM 'REWARD OF THE FAITHFULL':—	
(1.) The Heavenly Country	258
(2.) The Rose, and 'Black but Comely,'	259
(3.) The Rich Poor Man	261
(4.) The Ungodly Rich	262
(5.) The 'Gods' accused	262
(6.) Husbandry	263
(7.) Others	264