

**THE LIFE AND
POETRY OF
JOHN CUTTS**

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The life and poetry of John Cutts by Stanley Simpson Swartley

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STANLEY SIMPSON SWARTLEY

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UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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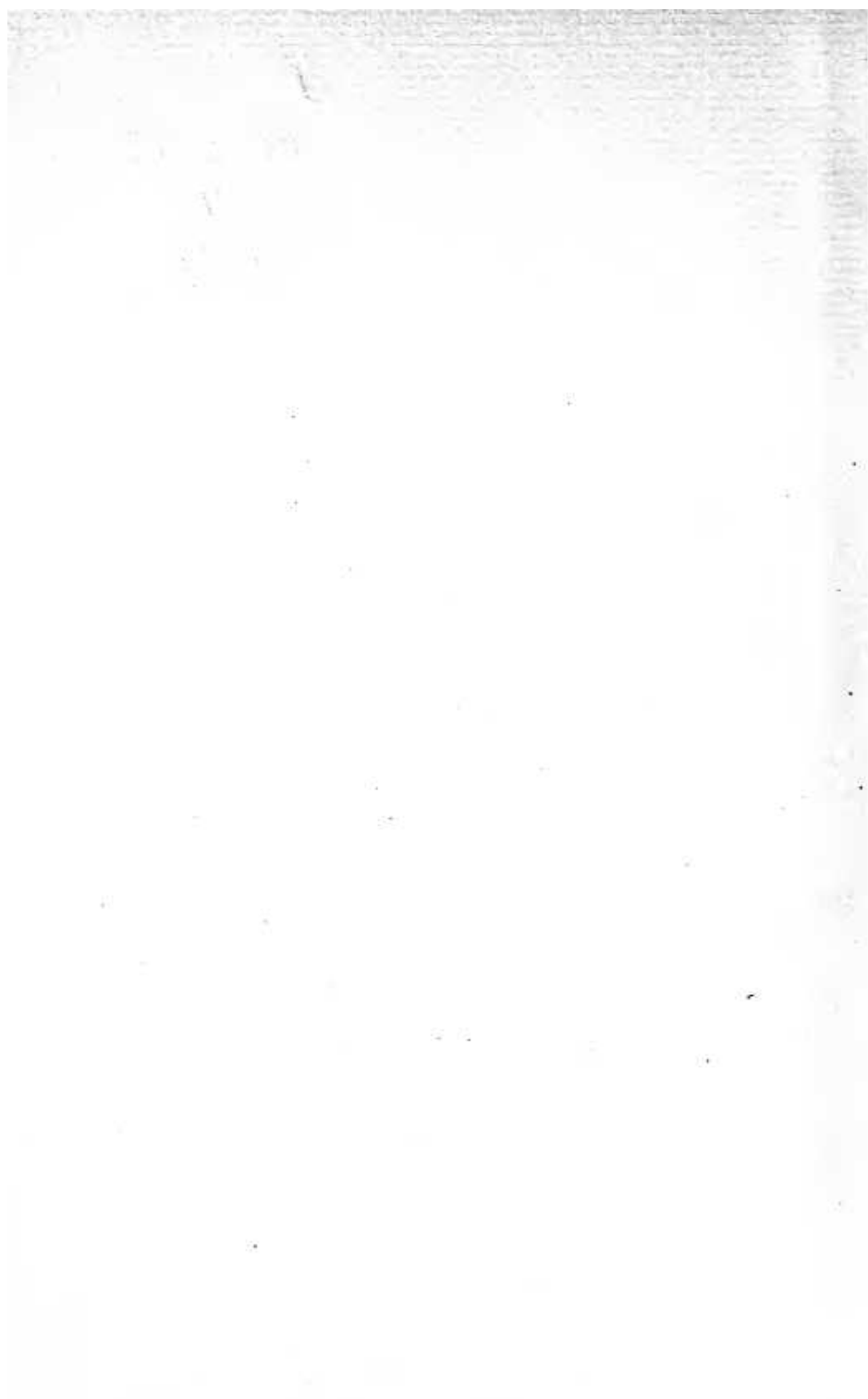
BY
STANLEY SIMPSON SWARTLEY

A THESIS
PRESENTED TO THE FACULTY OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL IN
PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR
THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

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PREFACE

This study of the life and poetry of John Cutts was undertaken at the suggestion of Professor Felix E. Schelling. Lord Cutts' volume, *Poetical Exercises*, 1687, is comparatively rare and has not heretofore been reprinted. The present text is a careful reprint of the copy in the library of the University of Pennsylvania.

It is a pleasant duty to acknowledge my indebtedness to Professors Felix E. Schelling and Clarence G. Child for guidance and helpful criticisms; and to Professor Edwin P. Cheyney for several fruitful suggestions. It is only thru the kindness of the Marquess of Ormonde, Kilkenny Castle, Ireland, and the Historical Manuscripts Commission that I have had the use of about eighty of Lord Cutts' letters heretofore inaccessible. For arranging and sending to me copies of these letters I am indebted to Mr. F. Elrington Ball, who has been calendaring for the Commission the papers in Kilkenny Castle. I am under obligations to Mr. Richard Bagwell, Clonmel, Ireland, the library staff of the University of Pennsylvania, and the librarians of Columbia and Yale Universities for courtesies of various kinds. And finally I am indebted to my wife for many suggestions, as well as for the preparation of the manuscript for the printer and the reading of the proof.

Philadelphia,
April 24, 1917.

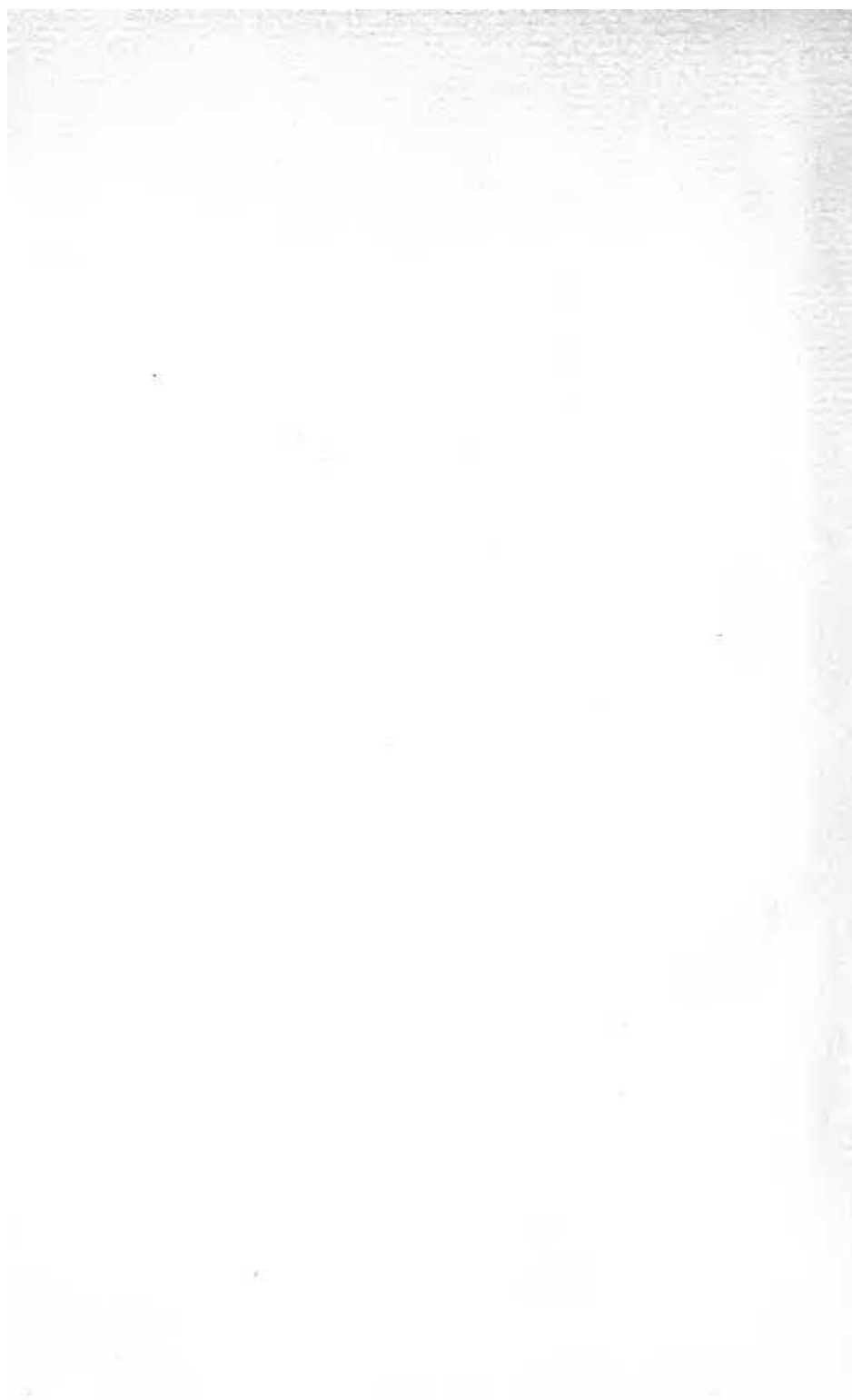
S. S. S.



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INTRODUCTION

I

ANCESTRY, EARLY YEARS, EDUCATION

John Cutts is confessedly a minor figure in English literature; nevertheless, he played an important part in many other activities of his time. A companion of William upon the Prince's coming to England in 1688, he remained a trusted friend of the King throughout the reign. A hero in many battles, he had a share with Marlborough in the glory of Blenheim, Cutts' last and greatest fight. He was also active in politics; for fourteen years he was governor of the Isle of Wight, and for over thirteen years he sat in Parliament. It is true that he wrote most of his poetry before he was thirty; but he at least partly redeemed his later years for literature by his patronage of Richard Steele. An active participant in many worthy activities, and a poet as well, John Cutts is not without interest, therefore, to the student of English literature.

The records of the Cutte or Cutts family go back to the sixteenth century.¹ There are two branches: the Horham and the Childerley branch, in which Sir John Cutte (d. 1520) is the first member whose name we know; and the Arkesden branch, with Richard Cutte, the brother of Sir John, as the first.

The name John was a favorite one with the family, for the poet was at least the ninth to be called John. Sir John Cutte, of Horham Hall, who died in 1520, was the first.² He built Horham Hall, acquired great estates, and was under-treasurer to Henry VIII.³ The third Sir John (d. 1554 or 1555) was sheriff of Cambridge, Huntingdon, and

¹The Latin names, Cutus de Lincoln and Willelmus Cutte, are recorded in 1273 and 1319 respectively, but nothing definite is known concerning these persons. Barber, *British Family Names*, 220.

²For the genealogy of the family, see *Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society*, article by King, H. W., IV, 25-42; Wright, T., *History of Essex*, II, 171 ff., 236. Wright gives a copy of the genealogical inscription on the altar tomb in the church at Arkesden.

³*Historical Manuscripts Commission*, 8th Report, Appendix, Part VII, 18a. The inscription at Arkesden states that he was treasurer.