

**CHARLES  
CHURCHILL:  
VAGABOND POET**

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Charles Churchill: Vagabond Poet by William Harvey Miner

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**WILLIAM HARVEY MINER**

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**VAGABOND POET**

BY  
**WILLIAM HARVEY MINER**  
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CHARLES CHURCHILL  
VAGABOND POET

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To  
Her who has been a  
constant inspiration

I.

"Churchill no more! O, cruel Death!  
'twas hard  
So soon to rob us of our favourite bard;  
We should not thus bewail the fatal doom,  
Hadst thou but plac'd an equal in his  
room."

II.

"He's gone! great Churchill's gone! 'tis  
true,  
Yet cease the fates to blame;  
Years they allowed him but a few,  
But gave eternal fame."

III.

"Prose-driving dunces, waddling fools in  
rhyme;  
Scoundrels of every kind, by vengeance  
led,  
Spit forth your venom, poison all your  
clime;  
Churchill, who scourg'd you to your  
holes, is dead."  
—*William Cole* (1714-1782).

## CHARLES CHURCHILL

**T**HERE can be but little doubt that the character of Charles Churchill was moulded to a great extent by the age in which he lived. In the study of any classic work of art or literature which may have proceeded from a man or from a period peculiarly fitted for its production, it is essential that the environment be given due consideration, and if an unpleasant view of the subject has to be discussed, we are often able to gain a rightful understanding, because of the circumstances which may have surrounded the persons or events under scrutiny.

Such a statement seems to be especially true with reference to this poet, naturally endowed with power and talent, which, if they could have been used under more agreeable circumstances, would have placed him in greater favor today. He became, not entirely through fault of his own, an unfortunate politician and profi-

