

**POETICAL WORKS OF
GEOFFREY CHAUCER,
VOLUME VII**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649121588

Poetical works of Geoffrey Chaucer, Volume VII by Robert Bell

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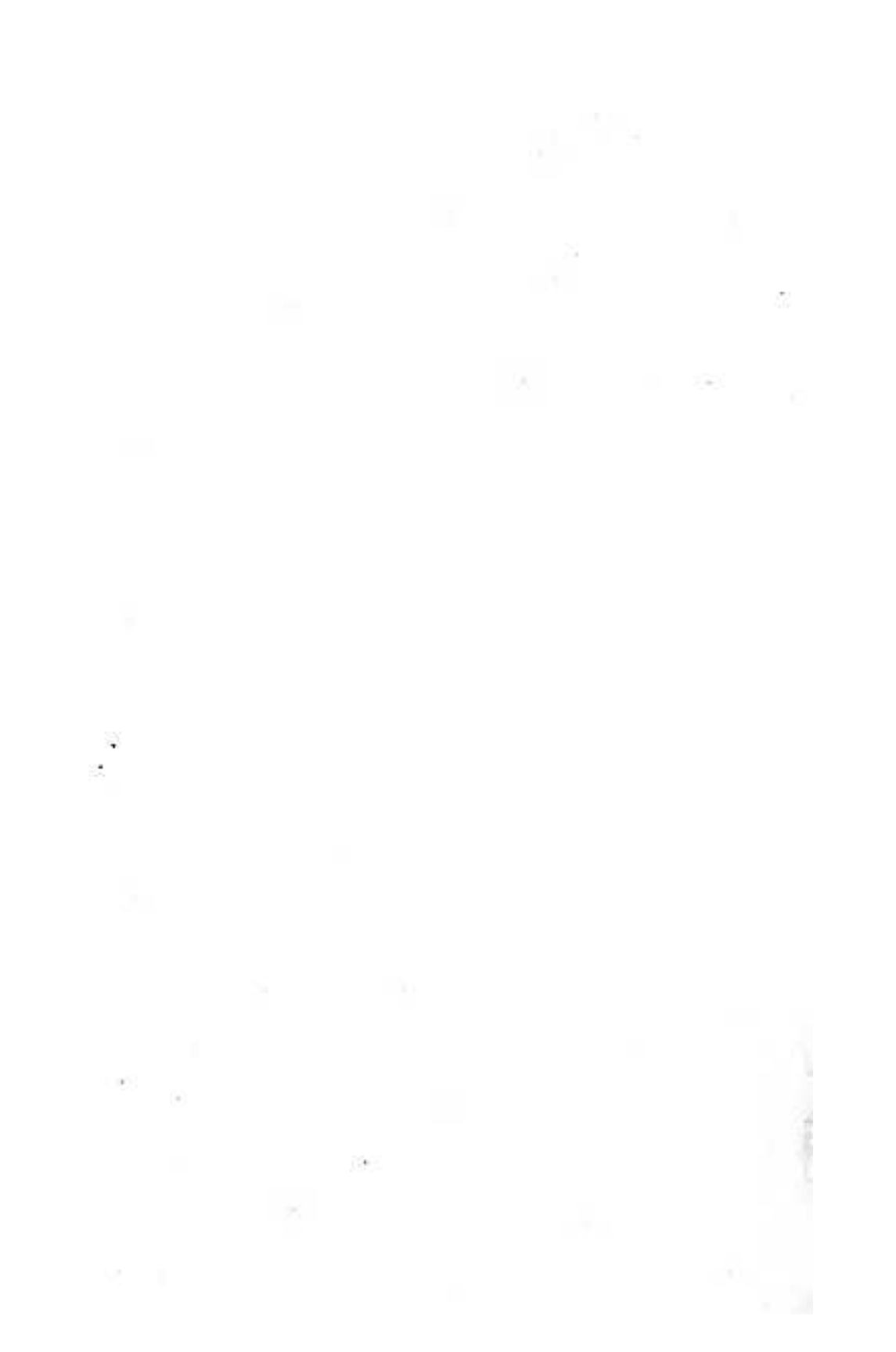
ROBERT BELL

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POETICAL WORKS

OF

GEOFFREY CHAUCER



~~1115-28~~

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OF
GEOFFREY CHAUCER

EDITED WITH A MEMOIR
BY
ROBERT BELL

VOLUME VII.

LONDON
CHARLES GRIFFIN AND CO.
STATIONERS' HALL COURT.

1115-28
22/5/11

LONDON
PRINTED BY J. AND W. RIDGE,
BARTHOLOMEW CLOSE.

PR
1851
B4
v.7

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POEMS
OF
GEOFFREY CHAUCER.

THE ROMAUNT OF THE ROSE.

[THE *Roman de la Rose* is the earliest poem of its class in French literature. It consists of 22,000 verses; and was commenced by Guillaume de Lorris, who, after proceeding as far as 4070 verses, died in 1260. The allegory was afterwards taken up and completed by Jean de Meun. Moreri, and the biographical collections, assign 1279 or 1280 as the date of Jean de Meun's birth; yet it is certain that in 1284 he translated the *Ars Militaris* of Vegetius. Jehan le Maire, of Belgium, concludes from this circumstance that he must have been contemporaneous with Dante, who was born in 1265. Jean de Meun is supposed to have died about 1318.

There was little in common between the genius of the two authors; and the parts they contributed to the poem are, consequently, distinguished by very different characteristics. Guillaume de Lorris possessed great constructive art, effectively displayed in the conduct of the allegory, remarkable skill in portraiture, rich invention, and exuberant fancy. Jean de Meun, on the other hand, was essentially a satirist; the poetical faculty in him was subordinate to more practical qualities; and his share of the work, deficient in imagination and variety, abounds in wit, sarcasm, and licentiousness. His revolutionary and dissolute doctrines produced a storm. The poem was denounced from the pulpit as a work subversive of religion, order, and social security; and the ladies of the court of Philippe le Bel are said to have conspired to