

# **THE POETICAL WORKS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649675609

The Poetical Works by N. P. Willis

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**N. P. WILLIS**

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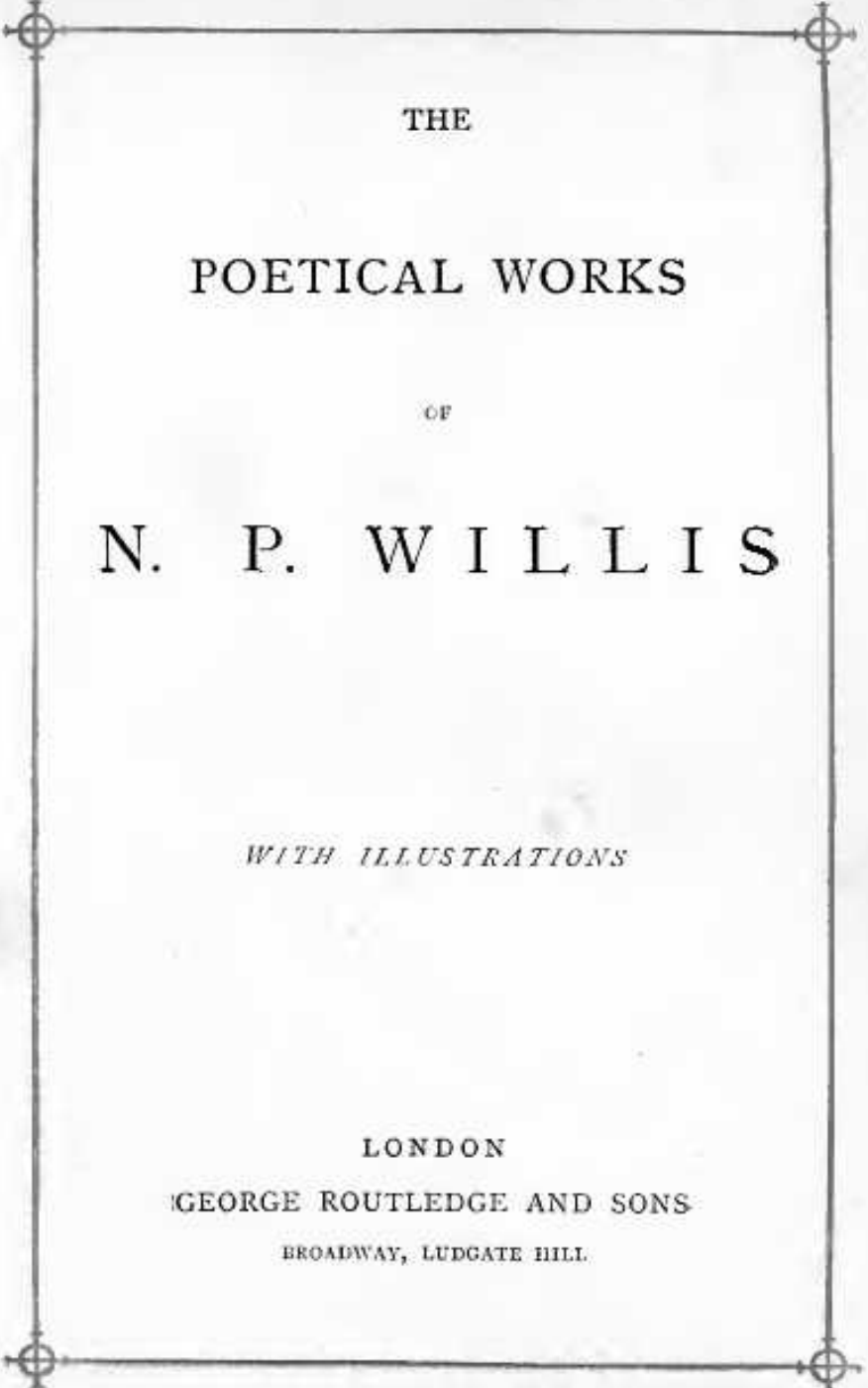


LORD IVOS AND HIS DAUGHTER. - Front. P. 112.

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LONDON  
GEO. ROUTLEDGE & SONS  
THE BROADWAY, LUDGATE



THE  
POETICAL WORKS  
OF  
N. P. WILLIS

*WITH ILLUSTRATIONS*

LONDON  
GEORGE ROUTLEDGE AND SONS  
BROADWAY, LUDGATE HILL.

ROUTLEDGE'S RED-LINE POETS.

SCOTT.  
BYRON.  
MILTON.  
SHAKSPERE.  
WORDSWORTH.  
BURNS.  
MOORE.  
GOLDSMITH.  
HERBERT.  
POPE.  
SOUTHEY.  
HOOD.  
FAMILIAR QUOTATIONS.  
SACRED POEMS.  
LORD LYTTON'S DRAMAS.  
LORD LYTTON'S POEMS.  
COMIC POETS OF THE NINETEENTH  
CENTURY.  
LONGFELLOW.  
HALL'S BRITISH BALLADS.  
SHELLEY.  
COLERIDGE.  
HEMANS.  
CAMPELL.



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## MEMOIR OF THE AUTHOR.

(From "The Round Table.")

WE are informed that Mr. Willis's career and literary performances will shortly be comprehensively narrated in the pages of a biography; and we only propose in this place to attempt an account which will necessarily be merely fragmentary and synoptical. The names of Mr. Willis's books and the main features of their style and merits are well known to all who read; and although it had grown to be a fashion of late to disparage his powers by pronouncing their product to be petty, finical, and affected, the author of *Pen-cillings by the Way* and *Letters from under a Bridge* had a hold upon public affection and esteem which disparagement could not shake. The worthy persons in this community who can never forgive anybody for being amusing, disliked him because he was seldom didactic and never political, because he recognised the use and need of the graces of life, and because he did not think it the chief duty of his career to make a dull newspaper. The extraordinary habit, which we have animadverted upon before, and which prevails so extensively among us, of considering everything which is stupid in literature respectable, and *vice versa*, no doubt told against Mr. Willis as it has against others. He was certainly never either a very strong or a very profound writer; but he was what is here much more rare, at once a humorous and a tasteful one. He was intrinsically and extrinsically a gentleman; and the circumstance, coupled no doubt with some little peculiarities of manner, person, and dress, procured for him at times unmerited ill-will. There were many who affected to contemn Willis who were utterly unworthy to sit with him at the same table; and a certain suspicion of aristocratic tastes and leanings always impaired his popularity with the masses. His extensive travel, his wide reading, his social advantages, and his remarkable fertility of expression admirably fitted Mr. Willis for the profession in which most of his life was passed. He was a journalist; not a writer of political leaders, and not a critical reviewer; but a journalist of the Parisian stamp, light, polished, and flexible, with a style delicate as a duelling rapier, and often as subtle and sharp.

Mr. Willis was connected with *The Corsair*, *The Mirror*, and finally with *The House Journal*, which he established in