

**ZOE: AN  
ATHENIAN TALE**

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Zoe: An Athenian Tale by J. C. Colquhoun

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**J. C. COLQUHOUN**

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EDINBURGH:  
PRINTED BY JAMES AUCHIE.

*J. H. 1825.*

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AN

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EDINBURGH:

PRINTED FOR

ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE & CO. EDINBURGH;

AND HURST, ROBINSON, & CO. LONDON.

1824.

*468.*

## DEDICATION.

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*To those who have spent their youth in classical studies, and who, as they pass on to others, more necessary, perhaps, but far less delightful, leave their first pursuits with regret, and look back on them with pleasure,— the following Tale is dedicated by the Author, who thus takes his last farewell of the period and the writers who have occupied his earliest and happiest days,—*

“ *Veteres revocamus amorem.* ”

EDINBURGH, March 1824.



## TO THE READER.

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IF there are any who have leisure to read or criticism to expend on the little Work here offered to them, the Author would freely confess to them, that they will find much to blame, and not a little to deride:—a style objectionable from its redundancies; with many faults, which it can only shelter under the inadequate plea of haste: thoughts seldom new, because the

Author wanted experience; and seldom striking, because he had not the perseverance requisite to adorn them: A story, too, which is not recommended by the excitement of complicated incidents, too trifling for the readers of antiquity,—perhaps too pedantic for the admirers of a tale of love.

Yet by the classical scholar he may be pardoned the harmless enthusiasm which has led him to pay this last tribute to the associations connected with Greece. He, perhaps, may enter into the feelings which induced him, as he closed, with a sigh, the works of Athenian poetry and eloquence, to desire to leave some record of his acquaintance with them. The kind and indulgent reader may look with a smile

on this effusion of youthful vanity ;  
and while he pities the folly, he will  
refuse harshly to condemn it.

But to those, whose exemption  
from the frailties of humanity leads  
them to reject the latter plea, as their  
severer reason would set aside the for-  
mer, the Author can only allege, that  
he bows before their sentence, which  
he feels to be just : though he may  
venture to express a hope, that their  
indignation will be softened by the  
assurance, that as it is his first, it shall  
be his only like transgression.