

**THE POEMS OF LORD
HERBERT OF
CHERBURY; EDITED
WITH AN INTRODUCTION**

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The Poems of Lord Herbert of Cherbury; Edited with an Introduction by Edward Herbert & John Churton Collins

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EDWARD HERBERT & JOHN CHURTON COLLINS

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POEMS OF LORD HERBERT
OF CHERBURY

EDITED
WITH AN INTRODUCTION
BY
JOHN CHURTON COLLINS



LONDON
CHATTO AND WINDUS, PICCADILLY
1881

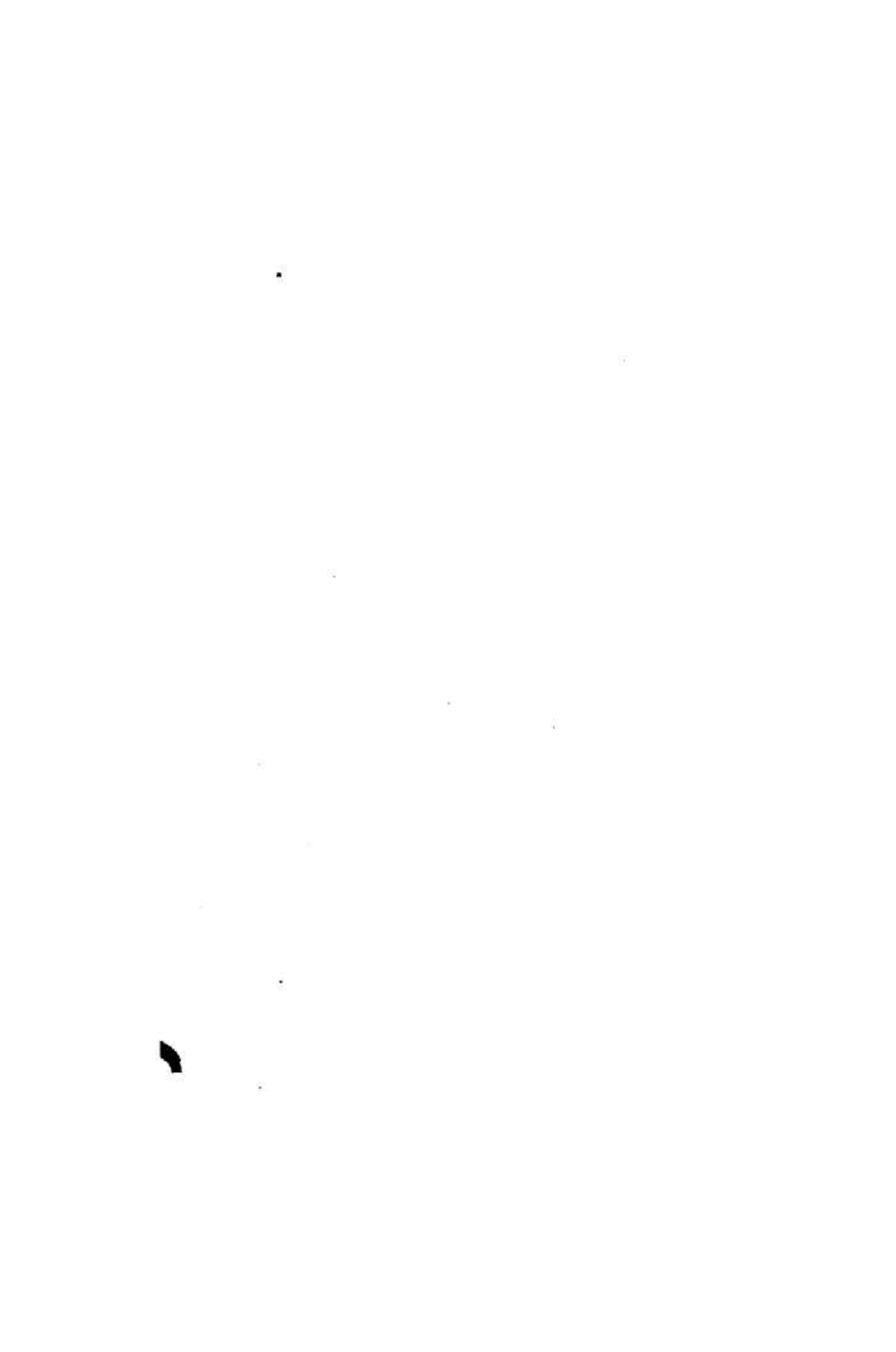


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I INSCRIBE
THIS LITTLE VOLUME
TO MY FRIEND
WILLIAM BAPTISTE SCOONES,
AN
IMPERFECT EXPRESSION
OF
ESTEEM AND AFFECTION.







PREFACE.

WHETHER the Poems, which are here for the first time presented in a modern dress, be of intrinsic value the reader will soon determine for himself. I have at least brought Herbert before the Court; and I have, I hope, secured him a fair hearing. Henceforth he will not be condemned unheard.

With regard to the text, I have adhered with scrupulous fidelity to that of the original edition; and I have collated the only two copies to which I could obtain access—the copy in the British Museum, and the copy in the Bodleian Library at Oxford—without, however, discovering any variety of readings. My principal difficulty has been with the punctuation, on which, of course, the sense of passages frequently depends; and for this I have often had no guidance

from the original, which teems with palpable errors. The spelling has also been carefully revised, and though it has been for the most part modernised, I have thought it well to retain, in some cases, the older forms, so as to preserve the flavour of archaism. Obvious misprints have been silently corrected. In two passages only I have ventured to alter the text, and they both occur in 'The Idea.' In the seventh line the original reads 'bear,' which, as it makes no sense, and breaks the rhyme, I alter into 'bar.' Again, in the last line, 'whence' is substituted for 'when.' And for this reason. Herbert is alluding to the Platonic doctrine of ideas, and it is much more natural to suppose that he would speak of an idea whence the form began than of an idea when the form began. Though he is mistaken in supposing that the Platonic ideas admit of application to particular individuals, he was evidently acquainted with the 'Timæus' and with the 'Republic.'

J. CHURTON COLLINS.

5 King's Bench Walk, Temple.



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