THE ALDINE EDITION OF THE BRITISH POETS. THE POETICAL WORKS OF THOMAS PARNELL

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The Aldine Edition of the British Poets. The Poetical Works of Thomas Parnell by Thomas Parnell & John Mitford

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THOMAS PARNELL & JOHN MITFORD

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THE ALDINE EDITION OF THE BRITISH POETS



THE POEMS OF THOMAS PARNELL

THE POETICAL WORKS OF

THOMAS PARNELL





LONDON
BELL AND DALDY YORK STREET

COVENT GARDEN

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POSSUM EGO CENSURAM LECTORIS FERRE SEVERI
ET POSSUM MODICA LAUDE PLACURE MIRI.
AUSONIUS C. L. DREPANO PAR. PROL.

EPISTLE

TO THE

REV. ALEXANDER DYCE, A.B.

"Come, with that pensive brow, that forehead fair, And that rich length of dark redundant hair; Come, with those winning graces that enthrall'd, And held my poor heart captive:"---so he call'd To her who could not bear; yet not the less, In dream and nightly vision he would press Her matron lip of love, and he would strain Her faithful bosom to his breast again, Till Hope itself was fled, and, day by day, The soft illusion melted all away.

Friend of my heart! to you I pour the strain
That wakes the Poet's widow'd griefs again;
Here in this breast his mirror'd sorrows see,
Each fond complaint again revives in me.
My heart reflects the melancholy line,
And more than half of Parnell's grief is mine.
With twinkling light behold, at midnight hour
The lamp is burning in the Poet's tower;
Pale o'er the page his studious brow is bent,
His eye still scans the sage's dark intent,

Dreaming with Plato, --- was it but a dream?

Or him who, wandering by Cephisus' stream,

Gave to the listening vales the deep Socratic
theme.

Say what sweet voice the wearied heart shall cheer,
Win the glad smile, or wake affection's tear:
What form shall glide within the half-clos'd door,
What small light footstep press the silent floor:
What ivory arm around his neck shall twine,
And say, or seem to say,---this hour is mine!
What voice shall cry,---away, my love, away!
The nightingale is now on every spray,
Come, hear the enchanter's song, and welcome in
the May!

Ah! say why here do art and nature pour Their charms conjoin'd in many a varied store; Why bloom, by Flora's hand adorn'd, my bowers, Why dancemy fountains, and why laugh my flowers? Along each velvet lawn and opening glade Why spreads the cedar his immortal shade? The brooks that warble, and the hills that shine, Charm every heart, and please each eye but mine.

Though gleams the page by jealous time unroll'd,
Where the long shelves expand their rows of gold,
Tho' their rich leaves the pictur'd missals spread
With knightly tale, and gothic legend fed;
Woe to the wight who once those witching tales
has read!