

**THE ODES OF ANACREON,  
TRANSLATED FROM  
THE GREEK INTO ENGLISH  
VERSE, WITH NOTES**

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The Odes of Anacreon, Translated from the Greek into English Verse, with Notes by Thomas Girdlestone

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**THOMAS GIRDLESTONE**

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Anacreon. Poems. English  
100.

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OF  
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TRANSLATED  
FROM THE GREEK  
INTO  
ENGLISH VERSE,  
WITH  
NOTES.

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BY  
THOMAS GIRDLESTONE, M. D.

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SECOND EDITION.

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Darmouth:  
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*WITHOUT their consent or knowledge the following work is dedicated to CHARLES STUART, Esq. and JOHN STUART, Esq. Capt. in the Royal Navy, the Sons of the late HON. SIR CHARLES STUART, Knight of the Bath, &c. &c. The translator of these Odes had the good fortune, many years ago, to serve in the army in a medical capacity, under the command of the late Sir Charles Stuart, and to the friendship of that General he attributes all his after-success in life. The sons of Sir Charles Stuart must therefore pardon the offer of the following EPITAPH, which no person, who had the honour of knowing their excellent father, will say is flattery*

*From their obedient*

*And faithful servant,*

THOS. GIRDLESTONE.

YARMOUTH, JULY 11, 1803.

*Opportunity 56; 30 July 1836*

· *TO the memory of the 4th Son of JOHN EARL OF BUTE, the HON. SIR CHARLES STUART, Knight of the Bath, whose knowledge, zeal, and magnanimity led on the British troops to victory in Corsica and Minorca; and under whose training many of the distinguished Heroes of our Egyptian Army were formed: Worn out with the fatigues of a very active military life in various climates, he died, at Richmond, on the 25th of March, 1801, a Member of Parliament for Poole, Colonel of the 26th regiment of Foot, Lieutenant-General in the Army, and Governor of Minorca, regretted, as a public loss, by his Sovereign, the British Army, and his Country.—*

Here reader, with the tribute of a sigh,  
Pause o'er this spot where Stuart's ashes lie!  
Here with our state, our army blend thy tear!  
A statesman, warrior, soldier's friend lies here.  
Such worth, by Providence, is only given,  
To glance on earth, and point the way to heaven.



## PREFACE.

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IT has often been observed, that the idle hours of literary men are accidentally directed to some particular study. It is natural enough to read the publications of those, who reside in a place where a person himself has some thoughts of becoming an inhabitant. A residence in Yarmouth occasioned a comparison of Mr. Urquhart's Anacreon with the original, and the translation of those Odes which are now submitted to the public. They have been withheld from the press for near eleven years, and how little they have profited by the delay, the reader perhaps will



be too soon convinced. Indeed there are many difficulties in reconciling the opinions of the different readers of a work of this kind. Those scholars, who have felt the expressive harmony of the Greek language, will be apt to exclaim with Labarpe,\* that we shall never see Anacreon translated. Might not these learned gentlemen have added nor Homer, nor Pindar, nor any poem of extraordinary merit into another language? Some are critics only by the writings of acknowledged critics, whose opinions they have treasured up but never examined; hence "*ten censure wrong for one who writes amiss.*" That the opinions of such great men as Dr. Johnson and Mr. Pope, though always deserving of consideration, are some-

\* *Lycee ou cours de Litterature, par le Citoyen Labarpe.*

---

times adopted too hastily may be proved from their own works. Dr. Johnson says a line beginning with *Oh* always offends:\* yet in the few verses which he has left behind him, there are thirty excellent lines that begin with this offensive particle.

In his life of Gray he says, "there has of late arisen a practice of giving to adjectives derived from substantives the termination of participles; such as the *cultured* plain, the *daisied* bank; but I was very sorry to see in the lines of a scholar like Gray, the *honied* spring." Yet *honied* is retained in Dr. Johnson's dictionary with one citation from Shakespear and two from Milton.

\* See the latter part of Dr. Johnson's Life of Pope.