

**WHOLE WORKS;
THE FIRST VOLUME**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649254637

Whole works; The first volume by William Browne & W. Carew Hazlitt

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Cover @ 2017

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WILLIAM BROWNE & W. CAREW HAZLITT

**WHOLE WORKS;
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THE
WHOLE WORKS OF WILLIAM BROWNE,
OF TAVISTOCK, AND OF THE INNER TEMPLE;
NOW FIRST COLLECTED AND EDITED,
WITH A MEMOIR OF THE POET,
AND NOTES,
BY W. CAREW HAZLITT,
OF THE INNER TEMPLE.
THE FIRST VOLUME.



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PRINTED FOR THE ROXBURGHE LIBRARY.

M.D.CCC.LXVIII.





PREFACE.

THOMAS DAVIES, the enterprising and intelligent bookfeller to whom the world was indebted for the only collective edition of the Works of WILLIAM BROWNE hitherto procurable (1772, 12mo., three volumes), was assisted in his laudable undertaking by more than one of the distinguished scholars of that day, and had the advantage of the occasional notes made in a copy of the folio impression of the Pastorals by the Rev. W. Thompson, of Queen's College, Oxford. Davies mentions among his correspondents and coadjutors in this matter the Rev. John Price, Keeper of the Bodleian Library, Dr. Farmer, and the Rev. T. Warton. The works of Browne possess in our eyes and estimation the peculiar interest, that there is good reason for believing the statement to be correct, to a certain extent at least, that MILTON was indebted to them for suggestions in no fewer than three of his own productions, *Lycidas*, *Comus*, and *Paradise Regained*. Critics have detected the germs of some of the best thoughts and finest passages in these immortal efforts in the

Monologue on the Death of Mr. Thomas Manwood, the *Inner Temple Masque*, and *Britannia's Pastorals*, all the compositions of William Browne, and all written before Browne had attained his eight-and-twentieth year!

The first book of *Britannia's Pastorals* appeared in folio, without any note of date on the title-page, but with an address to the reader directed from the Inner Temple, June 18, 1613. The probability is, that the volume was not ready for publication till the beginning of 1614, and it is likely that this and the *Shepherds Pipe* came out very nearly at the same time. Both were dedicated to Lord Zouch. The Pastorals were accompanied by an engraved title-page from the hand of W. Hole, but as a work of art it seemed so worthless, that the idea of its reproduction was relinquished. Book II. followed after a lapse of two years (1616), and was printed for the same stationer as the former. The title-page was a letter-press one in this case, and the poet thought fit to place the sequel of his labours under new patronage—that of the Earl of Pembroke.

In the edition of 1772 the original copies have not been followed in respect to the distribution of the commendatory verses. I have adhered to the old plan, and have left the thirteen panegyrics found in the author's two editions of 1616 and 1625 before the *second* book just as they stand there. The motive for disturbing the arrangement at all is not particularly clear. It could have been wished, also, that in the edition of 1772 the publisher had not thrown the author's marginalia into the foot-notes, and mixed them with the Rev. W. Thompson's observations, in a manner which, at least, was confusing, and in certain cases was not unlikely to mislead readers. Yet,

upon the whole, Davies's edition of Browne is by no means a contemptible performance, and the same may be said of his reproductions of Suckling and Carew.

The first and second books of the Pastorals are here republished from the second edition, which appeared in 1625, 8vo., during the life of the author. This octavo corrects several errors of the folio, and retains the original marginal notes, with which Browne himself elucidated what he looked upon as obscure passages in his poem, or places susceptible of illustration. But as the wood-engravings at the end of the first book are in the folio very superior impressions, I thought it desirable to have them copied exactly as they stand in the latter. There is also a curious woodcut there, omitted in the octavo, and this, too, has been accurately copied for the present republication; as it was my anxious study to present the most perfect edition of Browne's Works possible, partly in too long deferred justice to that pleasing writer's memory, and partly from a desire to give satisfaction to subscribers. I have added to Browne's notes a few of my own, where such appeared to be necessary.

The Third Book of *Britannia's Pastorals* was not published during the life-time of the author, and the original MS. has been long preserved in the Cathedral Library at Salisbury. Its existence was first pointed out by the late Beriah Botfield, Esq., in his work on Cathedral Libraries, and in 1851 it was printed for the Percy Society, from a transcript collated with the original in proof by J. O. Halliwell, Esq. F.R.S. Some doubt was entertained at the time, and has been since, whether this additional book was the composition of Browne, or that of some successful and able imitator of his manner and style. After careful exami-

nation, I feel thoroughly convinced that there was never any real ground for questioning the authenticity of the MS.; and one very valid reason for such an opinion lies in the fact that some of the songs in the third book are likewise to be found in the Lansdowne MS., 777 (to be more particularly described presently), being there inserted as the works of Browne. I believe that this circumstance was not known to the editor of the Percy Society volume in 1851, and certainly Sir Egerton Brydges was not aware of it.

The *Shepherds Pipe* is printed from the edition of 1614, 8vo., and the old text is represented with scrupulous fidelity. The *Elegy on Mr. Thomas Manwood*, which forms the fourth eclogue, has been collated with the copy in the Lansdowne MS. The publisher of Browne's Works in 1772 (the only modern edition of value) resorted to the reprint appended to the *Workes of Master George Wither*, 1620, 8vo., but the differences are few and immaterial.

The Lansdowne MS., 777, contains a variety of poems by Browne and others. It is supposed to have been formerly the property of John Warburton, the herald, from whom it passed into the hands of the Marquis of Lansdowne, who bequeathed his MSS. collections to the British Museum.

I feel unable to speak with entire confidence of the handwriting of this MS.; it is not unlike Browne's autograph in the earlier part, but there seem to have been subsequent additions by a second person. The title-leaf mentions only the poems by Browne, which take precedence of the remainder. Among them is the celebrated monologue on the death of Mr. Thomas Manwood, which is also found in the *Shepherds Pipe*, 1614, and

1620, and to which the author of *Lycidas* is suspected to have been under obligations. In the same hand as the rest, also, and side by side with pieces which may be held to be the undoubted productions of Browne, occurs the epitaph on Mary Sydney, Countess of Pembroke, usually ascribed to Jonson, with an additional stanza, first printed by Osborne in his *Traditional Memoirs of King James I.* But the supplement, which spoils the fine conceit embodied in the first portion of the epigram, is inserted among the compositions of Lord Pembroke in the collective edition of his lordship's poems superintended in 1660 by the younger Donne. The truth may be, therefore, that whoever composed the original sextain as it is to be seen printed in Jonson's works, edit. 1816, the addition was the work of another pen, namely, Lord Pembroke's. But it should be borne in mind that there is no very authoritative reason for assigning the epitaph itself (of six lines) to Jonson, and that it is by no means an improbable supposition, on the other hand, that Browne, who, during many years of his life, was patronized by the countess's family, wrote these lines, his noble friend tacking on what he might consider an appropriate conclusion.

It is only necessary to add, that the poems found in the Lansdowne MS. were first printed by Sir Egerton Brydges at the Lee Priory Press, in 1815, 4to. The orthography was unluckily modernized, and the text is, moreover, thick-sown with blunders of the grossest kind. I may instance the substitution of *universal* for *unusual*, *did* for *ere*, *with* for *worth*, *lying by the brook* for *laying by my brook*, *expel* for *excel*, and then leave it to the judgment of the reader whether such mistakes (there are some hundreds) do not deprive a book of any value and interest which it