

**GRAY'S POEMS: EDITED
WITH INTRODUCTION
AND NOTES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649596645

Gray's Poems: Edited with Introduction and Notes by John Bradshaw

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

JOHN BRADSHAW

**GRAY'S POEMS: EDITED
WITH INTRODUCTION
AND NOTES**

GRAY'S POEMS

EDITED WITH
INTRODUCTION AND NOTES

BY

JOHN BRADSHAW, LL.D.

INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS, MADRAS

EDITOR OF MILTON'S POETICAL WORKS AND OF AN ENGLISH ANTHOLOGY

London

MACMILLAN AND CO.

AND NEW YORK

1891

[All rights reserved]

f 99



PREFATORY NOTE.

THIS edition of Gray's *Poems* forms one of a series, and hence has to conform in certain respects to the general plan of that series—as regards the text, which is only a selection from the *Poems*, and in the nature of the *Notes*, which are intended for school use and for students in Colleges in India in particular.

The first ten poems are the ten published by Dodsley in 1768, that edition, corrected by Gray, representing all of his poetry that he cared to give to the world. These therefore in most editions of Gray are thus placed in the order in which he arranged them, and before poems written prior to some of them but not published in his life-time. In the Introduction will be found a list with particulars of all Gray's other poetical writings and fragments of verse; and in the *Notes* prefatory remarks to each poem in this edition, giving its history or the occasion on which it was written, etc.

I have made the edition of 1768 my authority for all the poems it contains, and, though not adopting Gray's peculiar spelling and use of capitals, both which are capricious, I have faithfully followed his text, while nearly all modern reprints have reproduced or added to the errors in Mason's and Mitford's editions. Thus in such standard works as Ward's *English Poets*, the *Golden Treasury of Songs and Lyrics*, Hales' *Longer English Poems*, Gosse's *Works of Gray*, and Rolfe's *Select Poems*, not to speak of countless school-books and popular editions, the

following passages are not in all as left us by Gray—the *Elegy*, 2, 35, 77, 93, 94, 123; *Hymn to Adversity*, 36, 44; the *Bard*, 16, 49, 100; *Progress of Poesy*, 8, 29; *Long Story*, 2; and in my Notes on the *Ode at the Installation* I have noted a curious error into which all editors subsequent to Mason have fallen, with the exception of Mathias.

For the remaining poems in this Selection I have referred to the original editions of 1753, 1769, and to the MSS. in the British Museum.

I desire to express my thanks to Mr. Gosse for his courtesy and the readiness with which he placed at my disposal the result of his labours in the study of Gray, and discoveries made subsequent to the publication of his biography and 'Works' of the poet; to the Rev. D. C. Tovey, author of *Gray and his Friends*, for information on several points which his scholarship and accuracy have enabled me to produce correctly for the first time; to Mr. Leslie Stephen for help in a biographical difficulty; to the Rev. Dr. Warre for obliging attention and favouring me with particulars on matters relating to Gray's connection with Eton; to the Rev. H. Arnott and to the Rev. R. F. Rumsey for comparing with the printed copies the epitaphs by Gray in the church at Beckenham and at Burnham; to the Rev. W. A. Mathews for a copy of the epitaph in Appleby Church parodied by Gray; and to the Rev. Vernon Blake for information regarding the church, etc., at Stoke Poges.

J. B.

SANDOWN, ISLE OF WIGHT,
9th May, 1891.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION,	vii
POEMS—	
I. Ode on the Spring,	3
II. Ode on the Death of a Favourite Cat,	5
III. Ode on a Distant Prospect of Eton College,	6
IV. Hymn to Adversity,	10
V. The Progress of Poesy—A Pindaric Ode,	12
VI. The Bard—A Pindaric Ode,	18
VII. The Fatal Sisters—An Ode,	25
VIII. The Descent of Odin—An Ode,	29
IX. The Triumphs of Owen—A Fragment,	32
X. Elegy Written in a Country Church-yard,	34
XI. A Long Story,	38
XII. Ode for Music at the Installation,	43
XIII. Sonnet on the Death of Richard West,	47
XIV. Stanzas to Mr. Bentley,	48
XV. Ode on the Pleasure arising from Vicissitude,	49
XVI. Epitaph on Mrs. Clarke,	51
XVII. Epitaph on a Child,	51

POEMS—

	PAGE
XVIII. Sketch of his own Character,	52
XIX. Epitaph on Sir William Williams,	52
XX. The Death of Hoel,	53
XXI. Imitations from the Welsh,	54
XXII. Verses from Wm. Shakespeare	54
XXIII. Amatory Lines,	55
XXIV. Song,	56
XXV. Couplet about Birds,	56
NOTES,	57
INDEX TO NOTES,	146

INTRODUCTION.

LIFE AND WRITINGS OF GRAY.

1716-1771.

THOMAS GRAY was the fifth child of Philip Gray, a scrivener or broker in London. His mother was a Miss Dorothy Antrobus, who, at the time of her marriage, kept a milliner's shop in partnership with her sister Mary, in Cornhill; and here Thomas was born on the 26th December, 1716.

He was one of twelve children, but all the others died in their infancy or childhood. "I have been told," says Mason, "that he narrowly escaped suffocation (owing to too great a fulness of blood, which destroyed the rest), and would certainly have been cut off as early, had not his mother, with a courage remarkable for one of her sex, and withal so very tender a parent, ventured to open a vein with her own hand, which instantly removed the paroxysm." In addition to this instance of his mother's love and courage, it was by her that he was supported, both as a child and at school and college, as his father, being unsuccessful and indolent, lived at his wife's place of business and on her earnings.