

**ANSTER FAIR, A
POEM IN SIX CANTOS
WITH OTHER POEMS**

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Anster Fair, a poem in six cantos with other poems by William Tennant

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WILLIAM TENNANT

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WITH

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ANSTER FAIR,

A POEM,

IN SIX CANTOS.

WITH

OTHER POEMS.

BY

WILLIAM TENNANT.

*Nec pole ego Nempe caelo, neque regi Olympis,
Neque usquam lucus tam federos, neci,
Quam hic intus sunt ludi bacchantales.*

PLAUTI, *Casina*.

————— *solo levi*
Dum nihil habemus usque calamis ludimus.

PEDRI Fabi.

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PREFACE.

THE following Poem is presented to the Public with that diffidence and anxiety which every young Author feels when the good or bad fate of his first production must check his rashness and vanity, or enliven his future efforts with the confidence arising from popular approbation.

THE Poem is written in stanzas of octave rhyme, or the *ottava rima* of the Italians; a measure said to be invented by Boccaccio, and after him employed by Tasso and Ariosto. From these writers it was transferred into Eng-

lish Poetry by Fairfax, in his Translation of "Jerusalem Delivered," but since his days, has been by our Poets, perhaps, too little cultivated. The stanza of Fairfax is here shut with the Alexandrine of Spenser, that its close may be more full and sounding.

IN a humorous Poem, partly descriptive of Scottish manners, it was impossible to avoid using a few Scottish words. Some old English words are likewise admitted.

THE transactions of ANSTER FAIR may be supposed to have taken place during the reign of James V., a Monarch, whom tradition reports to have had many gamesome rambles in Fife, and with whose liveliness and jollity of temper the merriment of the FAIR did not ill accord:

yet a scrupulous congruity with the modes of his times was not intended, and must not be expected. Ancient and modern manners are mixed and jumbled together, to heighten the humour, or variegate the description.

EDINBURGH, }
5th May 1812. }