

# **JEPHTHAH, AND OTHER POEMS**

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Jephthah, and other poems by George Pryme

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**GEORGE PRYME**

**JEPHTHAH, AND  
OTHER POEMS**



W. H. H.

The Countess of Minto  
from the author

J E P H T H A H,

AND

OTHER POEMS.

BY

GEORGE PRYME, ESQ., M.A., M.P.

PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL ECONOMY,  
AND LATE FELLOW OF TRINITY COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

“ Tacentem suscito musam.”

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J. HATCHARD AND SON, 187, PICCADILLY;  
AND THE BOOKSELLERS IN CAMBRIDGE.

1838.

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TO  
JAMES JOSEPH HOPE VERE, ESQ.  
OF CRAIGIE HALL,  
IN THE COUNTY OF EDINBURGH.

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MY DEAR HOPE,

I inscribe this little volume to you, not merely as a testimony of my regard, and of our long-continued friendship, but chiefly from the recollection of the gratification which I received, and the advantage which I derived, from our literary intercourse in early life.

Yours ever sincerely,

GEORGE PRYME.

*Cambridge, April 5, 1838.*

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## PREFACE

### TO JEPHTHAH.

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THE subject of this poem is Jephthah; not Jephthah's daughter. Her sufferings and her fate have absorbed all the sympathy of the reader, and have engrossed all the attention of the writers, who have adopted this pathetic story. Thus the hero of the piece has been forgotten; for, if I except a few retrospective lines in the prize poem of Smedley, I know of no one who has tried to delineate his character. The author of the book of Judges describes circumstantially her conduct, but rather with reference

to her father's feelings than to her own. He does not even record her name ; and he mentions not her existence till she becomes the object of a vow connected with the success of the arms of Israël. He was writing the history of his nation, and when Jephthah was called forth in a dangerous emergency to rescue it from impending ruin ; a short account is given of his previous life just sufficient to show who he was and why his aid was invoked. There is no formal description of him, as Hume or Robertson would have drawn ; but the few touches which incidentally appear are forcible and expressive. Every word has its import. They shadow out a magnificent outline, which I have attempted to fill up.

His feelings during exile are not described by the sacred historian ; but the bitterness of his answer to the elders, who offered him the command of the armies, shows what they must have been. We may discern a man of high talent and distinguished