

**COLLECTANEA ANGLO-POETICA: OR,
A BIBLIOGRAPHICAL AN DESCRIPTIVE
CATALOGUE OF A PORTION OF A
COLLECTION OF EARLY ENGLISH
POETRY PART X., PP. 209-342**

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Collectanea Anglo-Poetica: Or, A Bibliographical and Descriptive Catalogue of a Portion of a Collection of Early English Poetry Part X., pp. 209-342 by Thomas Corser

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THOMAS CORSER

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COLLECTANEA ANGLO-POETICA:

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CATALOGUE

OF A PORTION OF A COLLECTION OF

EARLY ENGLISH POETRY,

WITH OCCASIONAL EXTRACTS AND REMARKS

BIOGRAPHICAL AND CRITICAL.

BY THE LATE

REV. THOMAS CORSER, M.A., F.S.A.,

RECTOR OF STARD, LANCASHIRE; AND VICAR OF
NORTON, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

PART X.

PRINTED FOR THE CHETHAM SOCIETY.

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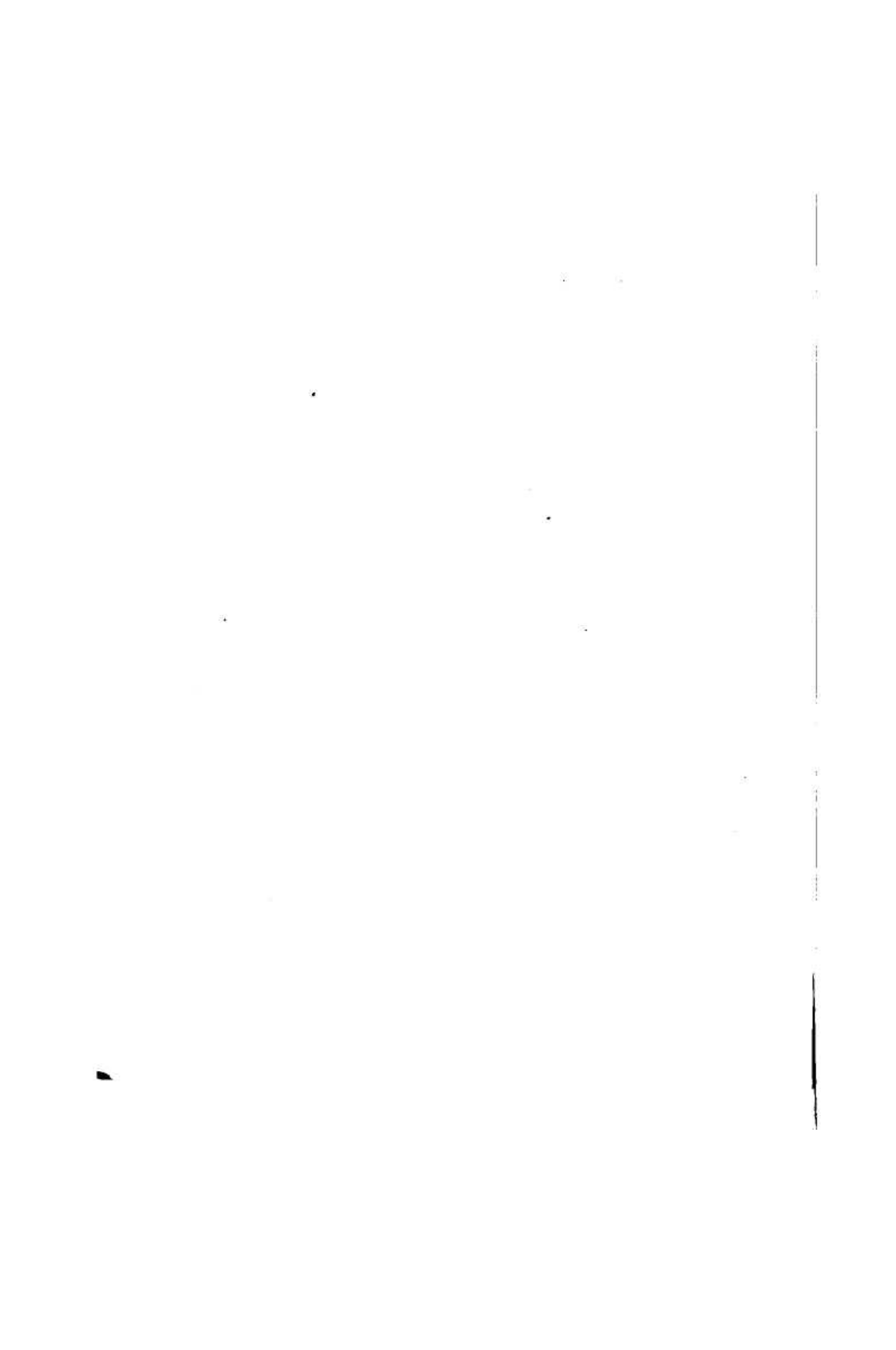
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COLLECTANEA ANGLO-POETICA.

VOL. V. PART II.



(R.)—The Phoenix Nest. Built vp with the most rare and refined workes of Noble men, woorthy Knights, gallant Gentlemen, Masters of Arts, and braue Schollars. Full of varietie, excellent inuentions, and singular delight. Neuer before this time published. Set fourth by R. S. of the Inner Temple Gentleman.

Imprinted at London by Iohn Iackson. 1598. 4to.

Among the poetical miscellanies which were so numerous during the reign of Elizabeth, one of the rarest, and at the same time most valuable and interesting in the nature of its contents, perhaps inferior only to *England's Helicon* in the beauty of its lyrical poems, is the *Phoenix Nest*. And although among the seventy-nine poems of which this volume consists, many of them are to be met with in other works of their respective writers, yet several of these pieces are to be found only in this valuable collection. The principal contributors to this most rare miscellany, whose names are known, were George Peele (one), Thomas Lodge (sixteen), Nicholas Breton (four), Edward Vere Earl of Oxford (one), Sir William Harbert (one), William Smith (one), Thomas Watson (three), and without initials, Matthew Roydon (one), and Sir Walter Raleigh (one). Besides these there are also fifty pieces in prose and verse, which are strictly anonymous, some of which, however, it would not perhaps be difficult to appropriate to their rightful owners. For instance, the first poem in the collection is by Matthew Roydon, as we learn from Nash's Epistle before Greene's *Menaphon*, 1589, 4to; and the second (according to Mr. Heber) is by Sir Walter Raleigh, but is not included in any edition of his works. The first poem, on p. 69, printed in *England's Helicon* under the title of "The Shepheards praise of his sacred Diana," is also by Sir Walter Raleigh, and

we are induced to believe that there are one or two others by the same writer.

Various have been the conjectures respecting the editor of the *Phoenix Nest*, who is designated by the initials R. S. By Coxeter the work was attributed to Richard Stonyhurat, the translator of a portion of Virgil; by Warton, with more probability, to Richard Stapylton; and by Waldron, to Robert Southwell the Jesuit. The first, although reputed a good classical scholar, had scarcely sufficient taste for so refined and elegant a work. The severity of style, and the utter abstinence from amatory or satirical subjects in the poems of Father Southwell, whose effusions were entirely of a religious cast, forbid our ascribing the volume to this writer. Of the three persons named, we are more disposed to assign the editorship to Richard Stapylton, who occasionally wrote verses himself; but these claims after all are only conjectural, and without any proper foundation, and the editor must, we fear, still remain unknown. He was no doubt personally assisted by many of the contributors to the volume, and we must gratefully acknowledge the justness and elegance of his taste in the selection of the pleasing specimens which he has collected together in this miscellany. Less bright and sparkling than the poems in *England's Helicon*, the compositions in this volume are infinitely superior to the former collections of Edwards, Proctor, or Robinson, and contain some of the most beautiful productions of Lodge, Breton, and others. And although it has been reprinted, a slight specimen or two of a work so rare and so interesting may not be unacceptable to the readers of our early English poetry. The first is an extract from "An Elegie, or friends passion for his Astrophill. Written upon the death of the right Honorable Sir Philip Sidney, knight, Lord governor of Flushing."

And you compassionate of my wo,
Gentle birds, beetses and shadie trees,
I am assurde ye long to kno
What be the sorrowes me agreeu's,
Listen ys then to that in su'th,
And heare a tale of teares and ruthes.

You knew, who knew not Astrophill,
(That I should liue to say I knew,
And haue not in possession still)
Things knowne permit me to renew,
Of him you know his merit such,
I cannot say, you heare too much.