

**PROMETHEUS  
UNBOUND : A  
LYRICAL DRAMA**

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Prometheus unbound : a lyrical drama by Percy Bysshe Shelley

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**PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY**

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UNBOUND : A  
LYRICAL DRAMA**



Heath's English Classics

# PROMETHEUS UNBOUND

*A Lyrical Drama*

BY

PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY

EDITED BY

VIDA D. SCUDDER, M.A.

BOSTON, U.S.A.

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## P R E F A C E.

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No student's edition exists of the Prometheus Unbound, the greatest work of Shelley. Because of its length, abstruseness, and difficulty, the drama has been little used in the classroom: and, indeed, while its æsthetic glory has been fully recognized, its spiritual and historical significance has till lately been often ignored, even by lovers of Shelley. Yet the Prometheus Unbound gives perhaps the most perfect expression anywhere to be found of the thought and passion of a great period of English poetry. It fully initiates the earnest student into the ideals of the Revolution — those ideals which, in their development, are determining the trend of our modern life. There is no need to speak of the imaginative fervor and pure lyricism of the drama: few English poems can be more effective to quicken and train æsthetic sensitiveness. So far as difficulty is concerned, the student who can understand the Faery Queene can understand the Prometheus Unbound.

It is hoped that the present edition may make the poem more widely known to the general reader, and more available for purposes of the classroom. The aim has been to supply

a good critical apparatus for the study of the drama as a work of art and as an historic product. To this end, the Introduction discusses the different aspects of the drama, and the Notes deal largely with suggestions for comparative study and with extracts from the best criticisms on the poem. Mythological and historic allusions to be found in ordinary reference-books are not explained.

The text followed is that of Forman's edition, except in two or three instances where a different reading has been adopted. Such instances are always mentioned in the Notes.

Much help has of course been derived from the critics and interpreters of Shelley, especially from Todhunter, Rossetti, James Thomson, Dowden, and Symonds. For the "Suggestions towards a Comparison of the Prometheus Unbound of Shelley with the Prometheus Bound of Æschylus," I am indebted to the work of my friend, Miss Lucy H. Smith, A.B.

VIDA D. SCUDDER.

WELLESLEY COLLEGE,  
August, 1892.



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## INTRODUCTION.