

**AN APOLOGY FOR  
"DON JUAN"; A  
SATIRICAL POEM**

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An Apology for "Don Juan"; A Satirical Poem by John W. Thomas

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**JOHN W. THOMAS**

**AN APOLOGY FOR  
"DON JUAN"; A  
SATIRICAL POEM**



AN  
APOLOGY FOR "DON JUAN ;"

A SATIRICAL POEM, IN TWO CANTOS.

Third Edition.

TO WHICH IS ADDED A THIRD CANTO,

INCLUDING

REMARKS ON THE TIMES.

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BY JOHN W. THOMAS.

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"Fragili quærens illidere dentem  
Offendet solidæ." *HOR. Sat. i. lib. ii.*

"And it came to pass that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud,  
for he is a god."—1 Kings xviii. 27.

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## PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION.

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THE first and second Cantos of this Poem were published, anonymously, about twenty-five years ago, during the life-time of the noble author, of whose splendid, but licentious work it is a review: and a second edition, with some additions, appeared soon after his death. As the "Don Juan" of Lord Byron has taken its place in the classical literature of Great Britain, and has been ranked among the acknowledged productions of the noble Poet, in the recent edition of his works—not only with all its moral defects, but also with the passages restored which had been omitted in the earlier and anonymous editions—the author of the present poem has consented to the republication of the Ironical and Satirical "Apology"—with his name too prefixed. The allusions, however, to the original anonymousness of both have been unavoidably retained. Another reason existed for the step now taken. The "Apology for Don Juan" having been made the ground of a dastardly attack on the moral character of the Author, its re-

publication appeared to him to be his best answer to such an accusation. The anonymous "Fly-sheet" writer who first made it, has not only misrepresented the character and design of the Poem, but has also misquoted its language, so as even to *spoil the metre!* Like a clumsy farrier, or dishonest groom, who maims the animal he takes in charge, this writer has endeavoured to lame the author's Pegasus, though unable to clip his wings, or emulate his flight! The motto from Horace, retained in this edition, and which on the title-page of the former editions, warned the reader not to interpret the title *too* literally; may now be regarded as a vaticination of the attack and its result. The following is a liberal paraphrase:

"The FLY-SHEET Viper smarting from the scourge,  
Entered the place where VATES plied the forge;  
Forming the pointed bolts of war to throw  
With his poetic arm against the foe.  
Mad for revenge, the spotted pest look'd round,  
If aught his fangs might reach : upon the ground  
A something lay which to his eager eyes,  
With passion blinded, seem'd a tempting prize :  
On this he seized, but with the sudden stroke,  
Against the *file* his poisonous teeth he broke."

The Stanzas on the Death of Byron, which form part of the additional Canto, appeared in the second edition of the Apology. With this exception, the third Canto is now for the first time presented to the Public.



## AN APOLOGY, &c.

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### CANTO I.

I.

I SING Don Juan, and his Author, who  
Are so deserving our profound attention ;  
I do it with the deference that's due  
To brilliant wit, and eminent invention ;  
Though some have thought, and have asserted too,  
That there is ground for serious reprehension ;  
The Bard assures us 'tis a moral poem,\*  
And claims that credit which the public owe him.

II.

This claim is just, as I shall quickly show,  
To every reader's perfect satisfaction :  
First, his nobility will prove it so— [action  
High birth and blood, of course, would scorn an  
So base as falsehood ; furthermore you know,  
(And this must surely silence all detraction)  
That he's a genius, and that sacred name  
Excludes all ground of obloquy and shame.

## III.

His lordship's genius I shall not say much on  
 At present, for on that we all agree ;  
 The argument which here I briefly touch on,  
 Will clearly prove the moral tendency  
 Of this divine and exquisite production ;  
 Or, at the least, his *ipse dixit* he  
 Would find enough for our complete conviction,  
 But for some instances of contradiction.

## IV.

I'll only mention two, which yet, I fear,  
 Will his veracity too much disparage ;  
 But do not censure him, until you hear  
 What I shall urge to palliate this miscarriage :  
 The first, perhaps, may somewhat odd appear,  
 'Tis on the subject of the bard's own marriage :  
 "I never married," he observes ;\*—but who  
 Would think him bachelor and husband too ?

## V.

The one he must be, from the above quotation ;  
 If not the other, then I wonder why  
 Philosophy, when combating temptation,  
 Should whisper, "Think of every sacred tie !"  
 Had he been wifeless, he on this occasion,  
 Had surely made a different reply ;  
 But thus to her memento he replied,  
 "I will my dear Philosophy,"—and sigh'd.

## VI.

'Tis therefore possible, it seems, to be  
 Both these at once, and widower in addition!  
 This by the following extract you will see,  
 In which our author makes his deposition :  
 " My days of love are o'er—no more with me  
 The charms of maid or wife can find admission,  
 As once they did." I quote from memory, merely,  
 And yet I know I'm quite correct, or nearly.

## VII.

This threefold statement hints a curious fact,  
 If accurate—and I could almost vouch it :  
 But I'll not from our author's truth detract  
 So much as to suppose one person doubts it ;  
 Yet even if he were not quite exact,  
 But made an awkward blunder at the outset,  
 'Twas probably an inadvertent slip—  
 Such sometimes will escape the pen or lip.

## VIII.

Then as to that which " men call gallantry,"  
 " 'Tis all the fault of that indecent sun."—  
 Yet how, you'll ask, does this remark agree  
 With what he says a little further on ;—  
 " The moon does these things for us ? " This may be  
 A contradiction ; but we all must own,  
 The truth, at any rate, his lay inspires  
 When he exclaims that " Poets are such liars ! "