

**ELEGY WRITTEN IN A COUNTRY
CHURCH-YARD: WITH VERSIONS
IN THE GREEK, LATIN, GERMAN,
ITALIAN, AND FRENCH
LANGUAGES**

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Elegy Written in a Country Church-Yard: With Versions in the Greek, Latin, German, Italian, and French Languages by John Martin & Thomas Gray

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JOHN MARTIN & THOMAS GRAY

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ELEGY

WRITTEN IN

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WITH VERSIONS IN THE

GREEK, LATIN, GERMAN, ITALIAN, AND FRENCH



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JOHN VAN VOORST, 1, PATERNOSTER ROW.

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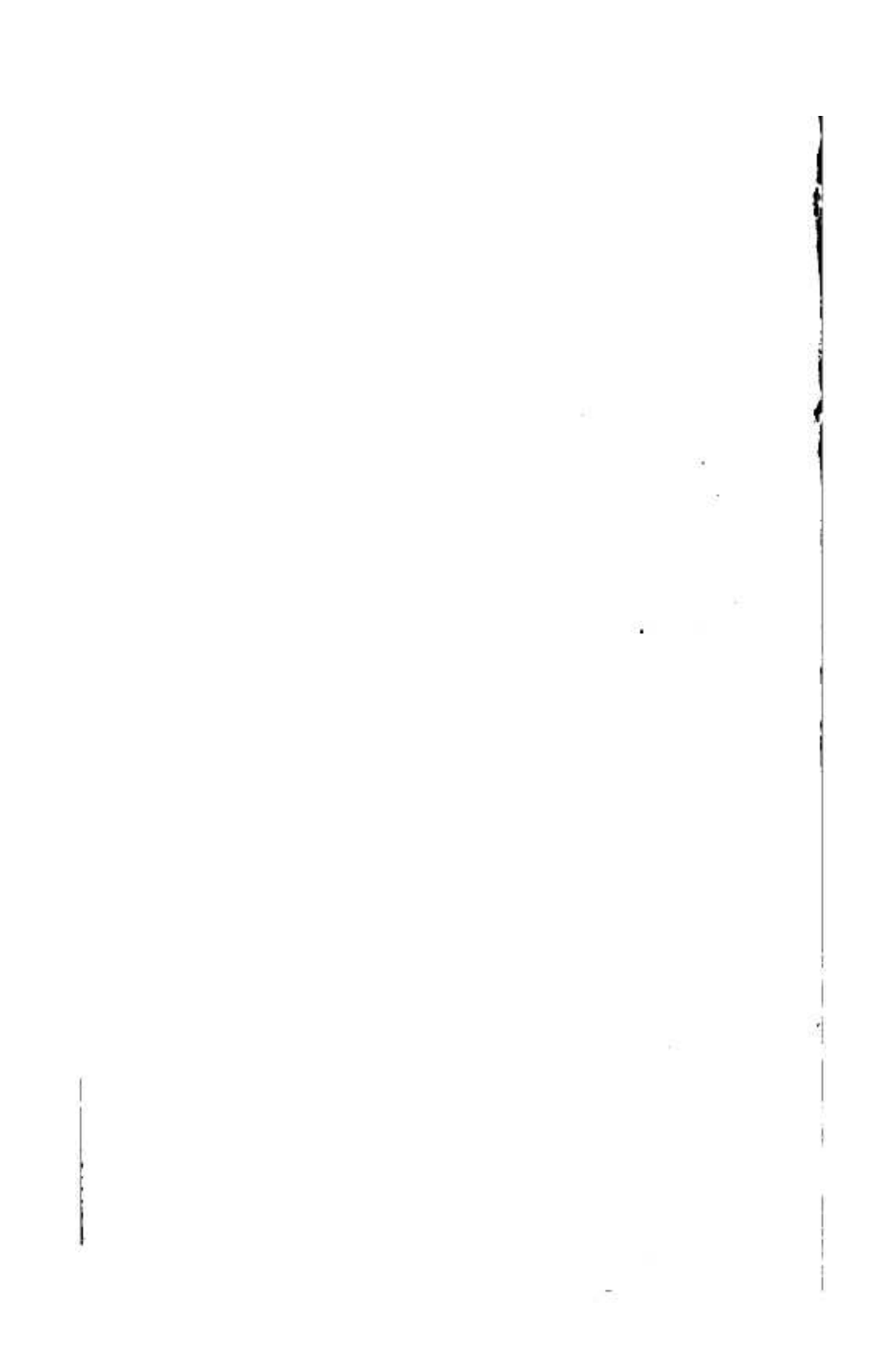
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1839
MAIN

TO
SAMUEL ROGERS, ESQ.

THIS
ILLUSTRATED EDITION

OF
GRAY'S ELEGY

IS DEDICATED
WITH THE GREATEST RESPECT.



THE great improvement that has taken place, within a few years, in the art of Engraving on Wood, as well as its general adoption, in some measure superseding the use of Copper and Steel, led to the present attempt to apply this mode of embellishment to a Poem of such general and deserved celebrity, and which appeared to afford the greatest scope for the talents of the artist.

The *ELIZY* itself has long been universally acknowledged as one of the most elegant compositions which the English language ever produced.

The following testimony to its great merit is not, perhaps, generally known, and will not here be inappropriately introduced.

General Wolfe received a copy on the eve of the assault on Quebec; he was so struck with its beauty, that he is said to have exclaimed, that he would have preferred being its author, to that of being the victor in the projected attack in which he so gloriously lost his life.

The favour with which this edition may be received, will be entirely owing to the talents of the eminent artists who have so kindly seconded the Editor, if he may apply such a word, in his wish to produce a specimen of beautiful and appropriate illustration in this branch of the Fine Arts; and to them he begs to return his sincerest thanks.

JOHN MARTIN.

LONDON.
Oct. 10th, 1834.

A polyglott edition of this poem has been published, containing versions in the Greek, Latin, German, French, and Italian languages, accompanied with the English text.

THE favourable reception which this edition of one of the most popular poems in the English language has obtained, and the numerous translations which exist bearing ample testimony to its harmonious composition, has led to preparing this polyglott edition.

Perhaps few of the admirers of this elegant poem in its native tongue are aware of the homage paid to its eminent merits, by the attempts to render its beauties accessible to foreign readers: a list of these would occupy a considerable space, but those who are desirous of becoming acquainted with them, will find a very copious collection in the magnificent library of George III. in the British Museum; it is, however, by no means complete.

Translations into Greek and Latin are the most numerous, principally by Etonians, with whom Gray stands so deservedly high. The difficulty in selecting the version in the former language has happily been removed, the refined taste of the author of "The Pur-