

**THE ODES OF HORACE:
TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH
VERSE, WITH THE ORIGINAL
MEASURES PRESERVED
THROUGHOUT**

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The Odes of Horace: Translated into English Verse, with the Original Measures Preserved
Throughout by Richard O'Brien

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RICHARD O'BRIEN

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CRITICAL NOTICES.

"Of late years we have been favoured with several new versions [of Horace], such as those of Mr. Robinson, Mr. Whyte Melville, Mr. F.W. Newman, Lord Ravensworth, and Mr. O'Brien."—*Times*.

"An attempt to exhibit the Odes of Horace in English measures, analogous to those of the original."—*Spectator*.

"This gentleman aspires to do nothing less than reproduce the original metres of the Poet. Now, we are far from wishing to throw cold water on any such attempt. The resources of our language may possibly be increased by it; and, that it may have attractions for powerful and cultivated minds, any one may see in the recent pamphlet on English Prosody by Lord Redesdale."—*Athenæum*.

"It is to the scholar in particular Mr. O'Brien must look for praise or encouragement of his labours. . . . If this little work have a small circulation, it will be from no want of skill and scholarship."—*Critic*.

"There is much classic feeling in the composition, although the verses sometimes creak as they move."—*Leader*.

"The last effort to put the Odes of Horace into English verse has been made by Mr. Richard O'Brien. He has rigidly adapted that verse to the original measures of the Poet, so that the English reader may suppose that he is really perusing the Latin. . . . If the object of Mr. O'Brien be to establish his right to be regarded as an accomplished student, his Translation will be amply sufficient to secure it."—*Star*.

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ODES OF HORACE:

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WITH

THE ORIGINAL MEASURES

PRESERVED THROUGHOUT.

BY

RICHARD O'BRIEN, M. A.,

CHURCHMAN OF ST. JUDAS, RICHMOND.



HORATIUS.—FROM VISCONTI.

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1860.

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THE ODES OF HORACE.

PREFACE.



THE present attempt at a new metrical translation of the ODES OF HORACE, the first, it is believed, of its kind, demands a few words by way of preface.

The work of Dr. PHILIP FRANCIS, which has been long esteemed the popular version of these lyrics, is composed almost entirely in the Iambic measure, of which so large a portion of our poetry consists. With us, indeed, the Iambus was once of such general use that

MILTON employed it even when rendering the Ode commencing—

Quis multa gracilis te puer in rosa,

“according to the Latin Measure, as near as the Language will permit.”

But the Sapphics and Hexameters of SOUTHEY and LONGFELLOW, now so familiar to the English reader, have suggested the idea that the other Horatian metres may be as successfully adapted to our northern tongue; and, justified, it is hoped, by such high authority, the present translation has been in consequence undertaken. It does not pretend to vie in popularity with any previous version: enough, if the lover of ancient literature shall recognise the Venusian Bard in his new dress, and not deem it altogether unworthy of him.

For the Rhymes, which have been occasionally introduced, it is, perhaps, unnecessary to offer any apology. They seem to conform, if not to the letter, at least, to the spirit of the original; and to indicate, with tolerable distinctness, the divisions of the Choriambic verse.

And now, whether the Author of the following pages shall carry out his design of producing in the original measures a complete translation of these Odes, it remains for thee, gentle reader, to determine :

———— crimine ab uno
Disce omnes.