

**POEMS, ODES, PROLOGUES, AND
EPILOGUES, SPOKEN ON PUBLIC
OCCASIONS AT READING SCHOOL. TO
WHICH IS ADDED SOME ACCOUNT OF
THE LIVES OF THE REV. MR. BENWELL,
AND THE REV. DR. BUTT**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649674749

Poems, Odes, Prologues, and Epilogues, Spoken on Public Occasions at Reading School. To Which Is Added Some Account of the Lives of the Rev. Mr. Benwell, and the Rev. Dr. Butt by Richard Valpy

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

RICHARD VALPY

**POEMS, ODES, PROLOGUES, AND
EPILOGUES, SPOKEN ON PUBLIC
OCCASIONS AT READING SCHOOL. TO
WHICH IS ADDED SOME ACCOUNT OF
THE LIVES OF THE REV. MR. BENWELL,
AND THE REV. DR. BUTT**

POEMS,
ODES, PROLOGUES, AND EPILOGUES,
SPOKEN ON PUBLIC OCCASIONS
AT
READING SCHOOL.

TO WHICH IS ADDED
SOME ACCOUNT OF THE LIVES
OF THE
REV. MR. BENWELL,
AND THE
REV. DR. BUTT.

When all these employments are well conquered, then will the choice Histories, Heroic Poems, and Attic Tragedies of stateliest and most regal argument, with all the famous Political Orations, offer themselves: which if they were not only read, but some of them got by memory, and solemnly pronounced with right accent and grace, as might be taught, would endue them even with the spirit and vigour of DEMOSTHENES or CICERO, EURIPIDES or SOPHOCLES.

MILTON, *Treatise on Education.*

LONDON:

Printed by J. NICHOLS and SON, Red Lion Passage, Fleet Street.

Sold by Messrs. RICHARDSON, J. PRIDGEN,
and the other Booksellers.

1804.



*Gough Add. Berkes
8 32.*

TO
THE RIGHT HONORABLE HENRY ADDINGTON,
HIGH STEWARD of the BOROUGH of READING;
GEORGE GILBERTSON, Esq. MAYOR;
JOHN SIMEON, Esq. RECORDER;

WILLIAM KNAPP,
MARTIN ANNESLEY,
JOHN DEANE,
JOHN BULLEY,
RICHARD MAUL,
THOMAS GLEED,
CHARLES POULTON,
WILLIAM BLANDY,
RICHARD WESTBROOK,
RICHARD RICHARDS,
LAUNCELOT AUSTWICK,
JOHN STEPHENS,

} ESQs. ALDERMEN;

WILLIAM ANDREWS,
JOHN BLANDY,
WILLIAM BLACKALL SIMONDS,
WILLIAM GARRARD,
THOMAS COWSLADE,
JOHN BULLEY, JUN.
THOMAS SOWDON,
HENRY BOYLE DEANE,
ROBERT HARRIS,
JOHN RICHARDS,
THOMAS WARD,

} ESQs. BURGESSES;

The following POEMS
are respectfully dedicated,
by their most humble
and faithful Servant,

R. VALPY.

Reading School,
Dec. 1804.

ADVERTISEMENT.

decorative flourish

THE following Collection consists of Poems spoken at READING SCHOOL since the accession of the present Master in 1781. It is published at the desire of the Speakers, who cast a pleasing recollection on those exhibitions, which have formed a part of their amusement and their instruction. Of the greater part the Authors are well known to the Public; little anxiety is therefore felt on their account; for the rest, it may be necessary to solicit the indulgence, and to deprecate the severity, of the Critic.

The Poems, bearing the signature of B. L. and L. were written by the late Mr. Bex-

WELL*. Had the Editor consulted his inclination in writing the Life of one so nearly related to him, he might have been accused of partiality by those, who knew not the character of that rare pattern of human excellence. The Reader will be little disposed to lament the effect of that delicacy, when he peruses the subjoined Account, of which it is enough to say that it was written by Mr. KETT.

The Poems, signed B. T. and T. are the production of the late Dr. BUTT. They are here printed as they were spoken, differently from the form, in which they appear in the Collection published by the Author. To accommodate them to the occasion of his public Exercises, the Editor made some alterations in them, cautiously, and not without authority. He has paid the last tribute to the memory of

* It is remarkable that the first of these, *Columbus*, was produced by him, with little alteration, in less than a year after his first initiation in Latin poetry.

his Friend, in drawing a sketch of his life, derived from authentic sources of information. Of its imperfections he is sensible; but he will have the satisfaction of leaving a monument of his affection and gratitude.

To Mr. BOLLAND are to be ascribed the Prologues and Epilogues signed D; to the late Mr. SEWARD the Prologue to the *Amphitryo*; and "last, not least," to Mr. PYZ those signed P.

The propriety of acting Plays at School, however sanctioned by the practice of many ages, and of many venerable establishments, has lately been questioned by some writers. If their objections are founded on actual experience, the Editor cannot but respect them. He will scarcely wish to persist in a branch of Instruction, which he has found to be the most laborious to the Teacher in the whole circle of Education, if he is once convinced of its evil tendency. He can only assert,

after a long and varied trial of the system, that he has found it attended with many beneficial, but not one detrimental consequence to his Scholars. He cannot be deterred from the proper use of an institution by the sophism of dwelling only on its possible abuse. Whether he has been successful in guarding against the latter, must be left to the judgment of those; who have observed the moral and patriotic tendency of his Plays, and the conduct of his Pupils in the various scenes of active life.

Lately published, by the same Editor :

KING JOHN, HENRY IV. Part II, the ROSES, or HENRY VI. and the MERCHANT OF VENICE, altered from SHAKESPEARE.

POETICAL CHRONOLOGY of Ancient and English History. The Fourth Edition.

THE PROGRESS OF SCIENCE.

WRAPT in ignoble sloth, the human mind,
Weak in her efforts, in her flights confined,
Long grovelled, heedless of her native skies,
Nor dared above the realms of sense to rise.
Man knew no laws, but those which Nature gave,
No arts, but those a worthless life to save ;
Wild in the woods th' unsocial creature ran,
And Brutes were savage only more than Man.
CHALDÆA's swains first raised their thoughts on high,
And dared explore the wonders of the sky.
But Superstition checked the bold career,
And chilled their opening souls with sluggard fear.
There the fell sorceress, from their caves of night,
Called forth her hideous phantoms to the sight ;
There ignorance upheld th' unmanly sway,
And shapes, by fancy formed, obscured the day ;
Fate seemed to hang on each declining star,
And every comet blazed a civil war.
Ill-fated souls ! who, struck at every glance,
Saw omens threatening in the arm of chance,