

**EARLY ENGLISH POETS. THE  
COMPLETE POEMS OF SIR JOHN  
DAVIES. EDITED, WITH MEMORIAL  
INTRODUCTION AND NOTES. IN  
TWO VOLUMES. - VOL. I**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649553754

Early English Poets. The Complete Poems of Sir John Davies. Edited, with Memorial Introduction and Notes. In Two Volumes. - Vol. I by Sir John Davies & Rev. Alexander B. Grosart

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](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**SIR JOHN DAVIES & REV. ALEXANDER B. GROSART**

**EARLY ENGLISH POETS. THE  
COMPLETE POEMS OF SIR JOHN  
DAVIES. EDITED, WITH MEMORIAL  
INTRODUCTION AND NOTES. IN  
TWO VOLUMES. - VOL. I**



Early English Poets.

THE  
COMPLETE POEMS  
OF  
SIR JOHN DAVIES.

EDITED,

WITH

*Memorial-Introduction and Notes,*

BY THE

REV. ALEXANDER B. GROSART.



*IN TWO VOLUMES.—VOL. I.*

London:  
CHATTO AND WINDUS, PICCADILLY.  
1876.

28658



To  
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE W. EWART  
GLADSTONE, M.P., &c., &c.

SIR,

I had the honour to place in your hands the complete Poems of SIR JOHN DAVIES in the Fuller Worthies' Library. In now publishing these Poems for a wider circle of readers and students, I re-dedicate them to you.

That I should have wished (and wish) to inscribe the Works of a man famous as a prescient and practical Statesman, as a philosophic Thinker, as an Orator, as a Lawyer, and as a Poet, to you, is extremely natural; for in you, Sir,—in common with all Great Britain and Europe, and America, I recognize his equal, and England's foremost living name, in nearly every department wherein the elder distinguished himself; while transfiguring and ennobling all, is your conscience-ruled and stainless Christian life. That you gave me permission so to do, with appreciative and kindly words, adds to my pleasure. Trusting that my fresh 'labour of love' (for which 'love of labour' has been necessary) on this Worthy may meet your continued approval,

I am, Sir,

With high regard and gratitude,

Yours faithfully and truly,

ALEXANDER B. GROSART.





## *Preface.*

MY edition of the Complete Poems of Sir John Davies in the Fuller Worthies' Library in 1869; since being followed up with a similarly complete collection of his much more extensive Prose, as Volumes II. and III. of his entire Works—met with so instant a Welcome, that very speedily I had to return the answer of 'out of print' to numerous applicants. Accordingly it was with no common satisfaction I agreed to the request of the Publishers that Sir John Davies' complete Poems should succeed Giles Fletcher's in their *Early English Poets*.

In the preparation of this new edition I have carefully re-collated the whole of the original and early editions, with the same advantage and for the same reasons, as in Giles Fletcher's. I have likewise been enabled to make some interesting additions, as will appear in the respective places.

I wish very cordially to re-thank various friends for their continued helpfulness. Several I must specify: To Dr. Brinsley Nicholson I am indebted for many suggestions, and spontaneous research towards elucidating the

---

Poems. I would specially thank B. H. Beedham, Esq., Ashfield House, Kimbolton, for not only making a transcript of the holograph copy of the "Twelve Wonders" in Downing College Library, Cambridge, and of the Lines to the King in All Souls' College, Oxford—both Colleges readily allowing this—but for his old-fashioned enthusiasm and carefulness of scrutiny of every available source, far and near. Biographical results will be utilized more fully elsewhere, viz. in the Memorial-Introduction to be prefixed to the Prose in the complete Works; but meantime and here I cannot sufficiently acknowledge Mr. Beedham's kindness or my obligation to him. To Colonel Chester, of Bermondsey, for ready and most useful help in family-Wills, &c., I am as often deeply obliged. His Grace the Duke of Northumberland, was good enough to allow me the leisurely use of his MS. of "Nosce Teipsum" at Alnwick Castle. Dr. David Laing, of Edinburgh, again entrusted me his Davies MSS. (See Note, Vol. II., p. 119.)

The Poetry of Sir John Davies, weighty and imperishable though it be, bears so small a proportion to his entire works and activities in many departments, that it would be out of keeping to give a lengthened Life herein. Still, in the present Memorial-Introduction will be found very much more of accurate detail than hitherto,

and corrections of long-transmitted and accepted mistakes.

The discovery of extremely important MSS.—including State-Papers, and official and private Letters—in H.M. Public Record Office, the Bodleian, Oxford, the British Museum, etc., delays my completion of the Prose Works and the full Life; but within this year it is my hope and expectation to issue the whole to my constituents of the Fuller Worthies' Library. *En passant*—for the sake of others it may be stated that the complete Works (Verse and Prose: 3 vols.) will be readily accessible in all the leading public Libraries of the Kingdom, and of the United States.

I send forth this new edition of a great Poet assured that he has not yet gathered half his destined renown:—

“ Ah! weak and foolish men are they  
Who lightly deem of Poet's lay,  
That turns e'en winter months to May,  
And makes the whole year warm :  
'Tis this that brings back Paradise,  
Reveals its bowers by Art's device,  
Instructs the fool, delights the wise,  
And gives to Life its charm.

(STEPHEN JENNER.)

ALEXANDER B. GROSART.

*St. George's Vestry,  
Blackburn, Lancashire.*