

**POEMS ON INTERESTING  
EVENTS IN THE REIGN OF  
KING EDWARD III: WRITTEN,  
IN THE TEAR MCCCLII**

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Poems on Interesting Events in the Reign of King Edward III: Written, in the Tear MccclIII by  
Laurence Minot

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**LAURENCE MINOT**

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EVENTS IN THE REIGN OF  
KING EDWARD III: WRITTEN,  
IN THE YEAR MCCCLII**



POEMS  
OF  
INTERESTING EVENTS  
IN THE REIGN OF  
*KING EDWARD III.*  
WRITTEN,  
IN THE YEAR MCCCLII.  
BY  
*LAURENCE MINOT.*

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WITH  
A PREFACE, DISSERTATIONS, NOTES,  
AND  
A GLOSSARY.

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1795.



## P R E F A C E.

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THE neglect which writers of genius are occasionally condemned to experience, as well from their contemporaries as from posterity, was never exemplified, perhaps, in a more eminent degree than by the poet whose works are now offered to the public. His very name appears totally unknown to Leland, Bale, Pitts, and Tanner: it is mentioned, in short, by no one writer, till late in the present century, nor is found to occur in any catalogue: while the silence of the public records would induce us to believe that the great monarch whom he has so eloquently and earnestly panegyriced was either igno-

rant of his existence or insensible of his merit\*.

That these equally elegant and spirited compositions were at length retrieved from the obscurity in which they had been for ages interred was owing to a whimsical circumstance, which it may not be impertinent to relate. The compiler of the Cotton catalogue (printed at Oxford in 1696), or some person whom he employed, had contented himself with describing the inestimable volume (GALBA E. IX.) which contains some of the most precious relics of ancient English poetry in these words: "CHAUCER. *Exemplar emendate scriptum.*" The manuscript,

\* Of this monarch, who gave to Chaucer an office in the customs, upon condition that he wrote his accounts with his own hand, it has already been observed, that, "though adorned with many royal and heroic virtues," he "had not the gift of discerning and patronizing a great poet." Tyrwhitt's Chaucer, Appendix to the preface, p. xxviii.



it must be confessed, is very *fairly*, and also pretty *correctly* written, (if either be the meaning of *emanciate*,) but owes not the smallest obligation to the great poet whose genuine works might, naturally enough, have been expected to occupy the whole. The indolence of our catalogue-maker being equal to his ignorance, readily converted the name of RICHARD CHAWFER, scrawled, perhaps by some former proprietor of the volume, on a spare leaf, into that of GEOFFREY CHAUCER, the supposed author of its contents. To this fortunate blunder, however, (if a blunder there was to be,) we are indebted for our acquaintance with the name and writings of LAURENCE MINOT, whom one of a different nature might have consigned to perpetual oblivion. The late ingenious and industrious mister Tyrwhitt, in preparing materials for his admirable edition of *The Canterbury tales*, consulted the manuscript for the purpose of

collating an *accurate* copy of his favourite author. His disappointment, which may be easily imagined, would be very speedily converted into the most agreeable surprize, on finding himself thus unexpectedly introduced to the acquaintance of a new poet, anterior, perhaps, to that favourite in point of time, and certainly not his inferior with respect to language. In consequence of this happy discovery, the name of LAURENCE MINOR (which he himself has luckily taken care to preserve) was first ushered into the modern world by a note to the learned "Essay on the language and versification of Chaucer."

A copy of these poems having been communicated to mister Warton of Oxford, some extracts from them appeared, with sufficient awkwardness indeed, in the third volume of *The history of English poetry*, published in 1761. Those extracts, however, are

by no means undistinguished by the general inaccuracy which pervades that interesting and important work. Its author, confident in great and splendid abilities, would seem to have disdained the too servile task of cultivating the acquaintance of ancient dialect or phraseology, and to have contented himself with publishing, and occasionally attempting to explain, what, it must be evident, he did not himself understand. That an English writer of the first eminence should never have heard of the name of **BALIOZ** must excite surprise: and yet this appears to have been the case of our poetical historian, who, in his, certainly bold, but not less erroneous, attempts to elucidate one of the following poems, makes "Edward **THE BALIOLFE**" to mean "Edward **THE WARLIKE**," that is, "Edward **THE THIRD**," who "is introduced," he says, "by Minot, as resisting the Scottish invasion in 1347 [1346] at Nevil's cross near