

**ENGLAND'S HELICON. A
COLLECTION OF LYRICAL
AND PASTORAL POEMS:
PUBLISHED IN 1600**

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England's Helicon. A Collection of Lyrical and Pastoral Poems: Published in 1600 by A. H. Bullen

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A. H. BULLEN

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EDITED BY
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PREFACE.

TWO or three years ago my friend Mr. W. J. Craig, an enthusiastic lover of Elizabethan poetry, announced his intention of editing *England's Helicon*; but, finding that his engagements did not allow him to redeem his promise, he requested me to undertake the work and generously placed his notes at my disposal. It had been Mr. Craig's intention to edit the anthology elaborately; but I have thought it best to make my introductory notice as brief as possible.

I take this opportunity of saying that I am preparing a *Second Series of Lyrics from Elizabethan Song-books*. I am particularly anxious to see Robert Jones' song-book, *The Muses' Garden for Delights*, 1611, from which Beloe gives extracts in the sixth volume (1812) of his *Anecdotes*; and I should be very grateful to any reader who would help me to discover this lost treasure.

Ultimately I hope to examine all the MS. collections of Elizabethan poetry preserved in public libraries, and make a collection of choice unpublished lyrics. This has been a cherished scheme of mine for many years.

31st March, 1887.

INTRODUCTION.

THE first English anthology, known as *Tottel's Miscellany*,¹ was published in 1557 and reached an eighth edition in 1587. Surrey and Wyatt were represented most largely; and among the other contributors were Sir Francis Bryan, Lord Vaux, Nicholas Grimoald, John Heywood, and Tom Churchyard. Michael Drayton in his admirable epistle to Henry Reynolds alludes, in terms of genial appreciation, to

"those small poems which published were
Of Songs and Sonnets, wherein oft they hit
On many dainty passages of wit."

Master Slender,² it will be remembered, was a diligent reader of the old anthology.

In 1576 appeared *The Paradise of Dainty*

¹ *Songes and Sonettes, written by the ryght honorable Lorde Henry Howard late Earle of Surrey, and other. Apud Richardum Tottel, 1557.*

² "I had rather than forty shillings I had my book of *Songes and Sonnets* here."—*Merry Wives*, i. 1.