

**POEMS OF KEATS; AN
ANTHOLOGY IN
COMMEMORATION
OF THE POET'S DEATH,
FEBRUARY 23, 1821, PP. 9-218**

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Poems of Keats; an anthology in commemoration of the poet's death, February 23, 1821, pp. 9-218 by John Keats

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JOHN KEATS

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THIS ANTHOLOGY, in commemoration of the death of Keats, is based on the Anthology printed and published at the Doves Press in 1914. In the arrangement of the Poems, the Sonnet—Bright star! Would I were constant as thou art—has been placed first, that from the outset the Reader may have present to his imagination the ever threatening cry towards which, deathwards progressing, all the passion of the Poet is tending, whilst at the end has been placed the earlier sonnet—Much have I travelled in the realms of gold—that the final vision of the Poet may be of one upon whom, as upon some watcher of the skies, has burst the silvery splendour of a new and more beauteous star—Swung high in unascended majesty—his own predestined sphere of song accomplished, unquenchably the same, by passion unclipsed.

The intervenient Poems are arranged in five Parts. In Part I, entitled Induction, I have placed, as specimens of his earlier work, and for their own sake, three poems selected from the Poet's first collection of verse, published in 1817; i, a poem originally, and in this Anthology, called Endymion, perhaps at one time intended as an introduction to the greater poem of that name; ii, a specimen of an Induction; and iii, Sleep and Poetry, the first ambitious composition of the Poet and, as has been well said, at once the expression of his own poetic aspirations and a declaration of war against the poetic ideals of the eighteenth century. In Parts II and IV I have arranged the

Tales and Odes and Roundelays which appeared in the second collection of Poems published in the *Lamia* Volume of 1820; and between Parts II and IV, in Part III, I have inserted eighteen Sonnets, all expressive, or illustrative, of the passions and affections of the Poet's tragic life; though not to him, in life, came the day to be born of the gentle South, or, as described in Sonnet XVII, a Poet's death. Finally, in Part V, I have placed two works of noble note, the two versions of *Hyperion*, the *Fragment* and the *Dream*, and so have closed this many-flowered and many-coloured commemorative Anthology of the Poet's verse.

The Poet was born at Finsbury on the 31st October, 1795, and on the 23rd February, 1821, died at Rome, where, beside the ashes of Shelley, his body, the broken lily, lies.

T. J. COBDEN-SANDERSON.

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