# DIANA: THE SONNETS AND OTHER POEMS

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Diana: The Sonnets and Other Poems by Henry Constable & Thomas Park

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# **HENRY CONSTABLE & THOMAS PARK**

# DIANA: THE SONNETS AND OTHER POEMS



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DIANA: THE SONNETS AND OTHER
POEMS OF HENRY
CONSTABLE.

"Sweet Conftable doth take the wond'ring car And lays it up in willing prisonment," The Return from Parnassus, 1606.

# DIANA: THE SONNETS AND OTHER

POEMS OF HENRY CONSTABLE, B.A.

OF ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE;

NOW FIRST COLLECTED, AND EDITED, WITH

SOME ACCOUNT OF THE AUTHOR, BY

WILLIAM CAREW HAZLITT, OF

THE INNER TEMPLE

ESQUIRE.

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TO WHICH ARE ADDED, A FEW NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS, BY THE LATE THOMAS PARK.



LONDON:
BASIL MONTAGU PICKERING,
196, PICCADILLY.
1859.

## THIS VOLUME BEING THE WORKS IN THEIR FIRST

COLLECTIVE FORM, OF ONE

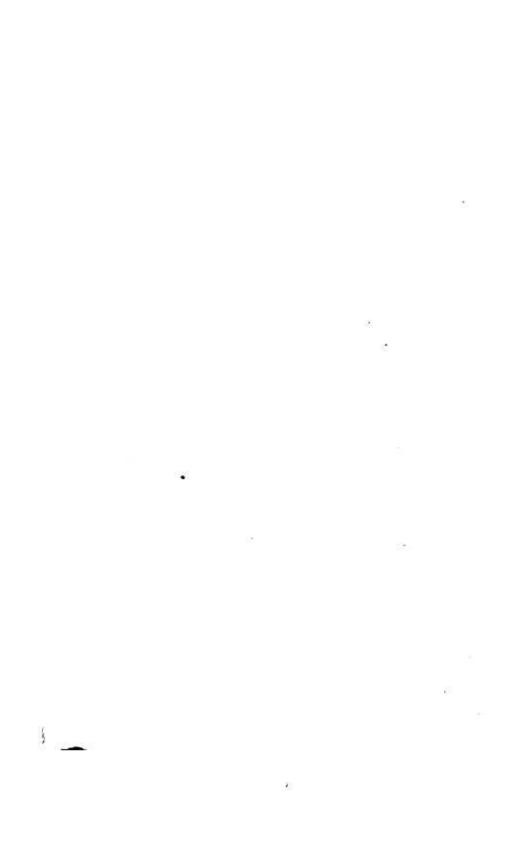
OF THE LITERARY ORNAMENTS OF THE AGE OF

ELIZABETH, IS APPROPRIATELY

INSCRIBED TO

RICHARD MONCKTON MILNES, Esq. M.P.

BY THE EDITOR.





## PREFACE.

O apology feems to be requifite for introducing to the public notice the complete poetical remains of Henry Conftable, one of the leading Son-

neteers of the age of Elizabeth. Though not altogether free from the quaintness which marks the writers of his time, the Diana and his other productions possess a naturalness of sentiment, and a grace of expression, which will go far to redeem any blemish of the kind to which we refer. The numbers of Constable are generally harmonious and pleasing; and it might be difficult to select any of his pieces which did not exhibit, in a greater or less degree, traces of a mind rich in fancy and invention. The efforts of his Muse, to which the Poet himself attached, or affected to attach, principal importance, were his Spiritual Son-

nets; of the rest he was accustomed to speak in after-life as the "vain poems" of his youth. It is to be suspected that posterity will judge otherwise; for, while these sacred effusions rarely rise above mediocrity, a more beautiful specimen of early English lyric poetry than The Sheepbeard's Song of Venus and Adonis could hardly be found in the whole circle of Elizabethan literature.

The present collection embraces no fewer than sixty-three pieces by Constable not found in the printed copy of the Diana, 1594,\* viz. from Todd's MS. thirty-eight; from the Harl. MS. sixteen; from Sidney's Apology for Poetry, four; from England's Helicon, four; from the 4°. of 1592, one. On the other hand, we have rejected, without hesitation, the "divers quatorzains of honorable and learned personages," with which Constable had no concern,

This edition has undergone two reprints (1815, 4°, and 1818, 12°.) which are equally worthless. It feems likely that Constable, when he christened his little book, had in his mind the title of a similar volume published by John Southerne, eight years before: Pandora, the Musique of the Beautie of his Mistresse Diana, 1584, 4°. Who, in either case, the lady may have been, in whose praise the poet is so lavish, it is now idle to conjecture.