

**DIANA: THE
SONNETS AND
OTHER POEMS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649448869

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

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

HENRY CONSTABLE & THOMAS PARK

**DIANA: THE
SONNETS AND
OTHER POEMS**



DIANA: THE SONNETS AND OTHER
POEMS OF HENRY
CONSTABLE.



21

" Sweet Constable doth take the wond'ring ear
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.



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.

NO apology seems to be requisite for introducing to the public notice the complete poetical remains of Henry Constable, one of the leading Sonneteers 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 seems 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 Musing of the Beautie of his Mistrresse 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.