

**FROM SHAKESPEARE TO POPE;
AN INQUIRY INTO THE CAUSES
AND PHENOMENA OF THE RISE
OF
CLASSICAL POETRY IN ENGLAND**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649589869

From Shakespeare to Pope; An Inquiry into the Causes and Phenomena of the Rise of Classical Poetry in England by Edmund Gosse

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

EDMUND GOSSE

**FROM SHAKESPEARE TO POPE;
AN INQUIRY INTO THE CAUSES
AND PHENOMENA OF THE RISE
OF
CLASSICAL POETRY IN ENGLAND**

25741

FROM
SHAKESPEARE
TO
POPE

AN INQUIRY INTO THE CAUSES AND PHENOMENA OF
THE RISE OF CLASSICAL POETRY IN ENGLAND

BY

EDMUND GOSSE

CLARK LECTURER IN ENGLISH LITERATURE AT THE UNIVERSITY
OF CAMBRIDGE

NEW YORK
DODD, MEAD & COMPANY
1885

3

TO W. D. HOWELLS.

THE humming-bird in June
Sits, like a jewel, on your taut clothes-line,
And greets Charles River broad and opaline,
Till wanes September's honeysuckle moon
Too soon ;

And then away he goes,
A flash of ruby on the southward air,
And comes no more, though still the straits are fair,
Where misty Cambridge from the Beacon shows
Pale rose ;

But leaves a plume behind,
A little plume you fold into a book,
On which, one day, if you should chance to look,
Your tiny friend would rise, thro' storm and wind,
To mind.

The fluted conchs that came
Long since in Salem merchant-ships to town,
With polished porcelain lips and ridges brown,
Faint-perfumed from the isles of Eastern name
A-flame,—

These still, if shaken, give
From their deep hearts a murmur of the dome
Where once their soft inhabitants could roam,—
Sonorous seas where Indian monsters thrive
And strive ;

Ms. A. 12. 4. 2. 10

Their owners all are dead ;
The mighty ships that brought them rot on shore ;
Yet still that murmur lingers at their core,
And Fancy's light across their tropic bed
Is shed.

I, less than bird or shell,
More volatile, more fragile far than these,
Lighting an hour by these New England seas
Leave here my plume, my echo,—where it fell
To dwell :

You shook it from my wing,
You dived to lift it from my glimmering deeps ;
Now, wakened by your voice no more, it sleeps
And grows less mine than yours ; here let it cling
And sing ;

Then, when at dusk you spy
The noiseless phantom-schooners warping down
To load in mouldering wharves of Boston town,
Turn sometimes to your lamp-lit shelves, where I
Shall lie.

300 BRASOR STREET, BOSTON,
December, 1884.

PREFACE.

THE following chapters were written in response to an invitation from the trustees of the Lowell Institute in Boston, and were delivered before that institution in the month of December last. They were also read during the same winter, in whole or in part, before the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, before Yale College, before private audiences in New York and elsewhere in America, as well as before my own university audience at Cambridge.

It has been of no small advantage to me that among the distinguished listeners to whom I have had the honour of reading these pages, there have been more than a few whose special studies have rendered them particularly acute in criticising the links of my argument. In consequence of such criticism, I have been able profitably to revise the work, to add evidence where it seemed wanting, to remove rash statements and to re-mould ambiguous sentences. Above all, I have given a great deal of care to the accumulation, in the form of notes and appendices, of historical and critical data of a kind too particular for the purposes of a lecturer, but not, I hope, without genuine importance to the student of the history of literature. The friendly

criticism of which I have spoken has not, however, shaken me in the slightest degree with regard to my central idea. On the contrary, the effect of minute controversy has merely been to strengthen on every side my conviction that the theory which I have here laid down for the first time is substantially the true one, and that the opinion hitherto received regarding the sources of the classical school in our poetry is erroneous. I think I may at least claim, from the critic who is inclined to reject my views, a careful consideration of the arguments and evidence upon which they are founded.

It would be impossible for me to speak too warmly of the kindness which my friend, Professor Samuel R. Gardiner, has shown me in allowing me to see and use the unfinished MS. of the forthcoming [eleventh] volume of his history, and in leading me to MS. sources of seventeenth-century information. It is wholly owing to his generosity that I have been enabled, in the second chapter of this volume, to give an account of Waller's Plot which is much more complete and accurate than any hitherto published. Prof. Gardiner's volume, for which students of the Caroline period can hardly command their impatience, will not, I am sorry to say, be in our possession for some years. I suppose that our great historian will not come forward to greet the public again until he can bring the head of Charles I. in his hands.

TRIN. COLL., CAMBRIDGE,
May, 1885.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
DEDICATION.....	iii
PREFACE.....	v
POETRY AT THE DEATH OF SHAKESPEARE.....	3
WALLER AND SACHARISSA.....	39
THE EXILES.....	81
DAVENANT AND COWLEY.....	117
THE REACTION.....	155
THE RESTORATION.....	193
APPENDIX I.....	231
APPENDIX II.....	233
APPENDIX III.....	235
APPENDIX IV.....	237

—