

**ENGLISH PASTORAL DRAMA.
FROM THE RESTORATION TO THE
DATE
OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE
"LYRICAL BALLADS" (1660-1798)**

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English Pastoral Drama. From the Restoration to the Date of the Publication of The "Lyrical Ballads" (1660-1798) by Jeannette Marks

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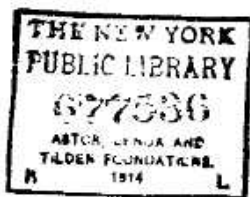
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THIS BOOK
IS
GRATEFULLY INSCRIBED
TO
KATHARINE LEE BATES, SOPHIE JEWETT
VIDA D. SCUDDER
AND
MARGARET SHERWOOD

"GET some fam'd Opera, any how translated,
No matter, so the t'other House don't get it.
Get Cloathes, tho' the Actors with half-pay dispencc.
Get Scenes, get Whims, get anything . . . but Sence."
Epilogue to Motteux's "Temple of Love."

PREFACE

A STUDY of the dramatic pastoral in the eighteenth century points to the very nadir of English drama. As an indicator this work should be of value; it covers the ground from the re-opening of the theatres to the natural death of play-writing and the incoming of novels; it exposes the fundamental weaknesses of dramatic conception during the Restoration, and discusses a past of vital beauty for the pastoral; and then, by means of some two hundred plays, it follows, often wearily enough, through triviality, cheapness and vulgarity, the complete degeneration of the dramatic pastoral mode. Living pastoral drama can never come again, for, like the eclogue some two hundred years earlier, it is extinct. To aid the student who has not the time or the opportunity to wade through five score plays and more, many of which are inaccessible except in the British Museum or the Bodleian, summaries of the plots have been given and, in addition, a brief account of the pastoral in general, of definitions and criticisms of the pastoral, and a skit of the