

**THE HOPES OF
MATRIMONY:
A POEM**

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The hopes of matrimony: a poem by John Holland

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JOHN HOLLAND

**THE HOPES OF
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A POEM**

THE
HOPES OF MATRIMONY:

A Poem.

BY JOHN HOLLAND,

Author of

"SUNSHINE PARK," &c.

Hail, wedded love, mysterious law!—by thee,
Founded in reason, loyal, just, and pure,
Relations dear, and all the charities
Of father, son, and brother, first were known.

Perpetual fountain of domestic sweets:
Here Love his golden shafts employs, here lights
His constant lamp, and waves his purple wings;
Reigns here and revels. *Milton.*

London:

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10, Stationers'-Court, and Ave-Maria-Lane.

1822.



T. C. Hansard, Printer, Peterborough-court, Fleet-street, London.

PREFACE.

THE following Poem is submitted, with unfeigned diffidence, both for the subject and execution, to the ordeal of public opinion, and the approbation of the writer's friends.

Whether the judgment which shall be pronounced upon it, be favourable, or otherwise, is a question of much less importance to the author in his literary, than his moral character. Conscientious, however, of the integrity of his own intentions, and not altogether distrustful of his abilities, he has ventured to devote the brief leisure of a situation in life which compels him to earn his bread by the sweat of his brow, and to labour for the support of a family, with the welfare of which he stands connected as a brother and a son, to the composition of the present work. If

he have succeeded, he will feel gratified by knowing, that others are participators in his success; if he have failed, it will be some consolation to his friends to know, that the risk of such failure rested with himself alone. The work has been written, printed, and published, with little hope, less encouragement, and no patronage from any individual.

“ Marriage is honourable in all,” says the Apostle of Jesus Christ; and “ Marriage,” says Bishop Jeremy Taylor, (an apostle of our own country, and one of the brightest ornaments of the church,) “ is the mother of the world, and preserves kingdoms, and fills cities, churches, and even heaven itself. Celibacy, like the fly in the heart of an apple, dwells in a perpetual sweetness; but sits alone, and is confined, and dies in singularity; but marriage, like the useful bee, builds an house, and gathers sweetness from every flower, and labours and unites into societies and republics; and sends out colonies, and fills the world with delicacies; and obeys their king, keeps order, and exercises many virtues, and promotes the in-

terest of mankind ; and is that state of things to which God hath designed the present constitution of the world. Marriage hath in it the labour of love, and the delicacies of friendship, the blessings of society, and the union of hands and hearts. It hath in it less of beauty, but more of safety, than a single life ; it is more merry and more sad ; is fuller of joys and fuller of sorrow ; it lies under more burthens, but is supported by the strength of love and charity, and these burthens are delightful." If the author of the following poem has transgressed the rules of public decorum, by recommending such a subject, that public is possessed both of the right and the means of chastising his temerity ; to the award of this tribunal, therefore, he cheerfully submits.

The objections of the grave, and the sarcasms of the flippant, the writer is prepared to expect ; to the former he shall concede, what himself asks, the right of private judgment, when not opposed to public utility ; to the latter he has nothing to say, except that he writes not for *them*.

Should the present poem fail to secure any approbation of its execution or design, the writer trusts, that to have attempted to adorn and recommend such a subject, will never embitter, at the hour of death, those feelings with which he should wish to review the actions of his life as a **MAN**, a **POET**, and a **CHRISTIAN**.

J. H.

Sheffield Park,
June 28, 1822.

The Hopes of Matrimony.

PART I.