

**POETRY OF THE ANTI-JACOBIN:
COMPRISING THE CELEBRATED
POLITICAL & SATIRICAL POEMS,
PARODIES, AND JEUX-D'ESPRIT**

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Poetry of the Anti-Jacobin: Comprising the Celebrated Political & Satirical Poems, Parodies, and Jeux-D'Esprit by Various

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VARIOUS

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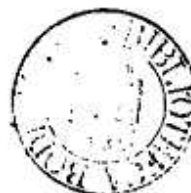
POLITICAL & SATIRICAL POEMS, PARODIES,
AND JEUX-D'ESPRIT

OF

THE RIGHT HON. GEORGE CANNING,
THE EARL OF LIVERPOOL, MARQUIS WELLESLEY,
THE RIGHT HON. J. H. FRERE,
G. ELLIS, ESQ., W. GIFFORD, ESQ.
AND OTHERS.

2nd and Revised Edition,

WITH EXPLANATORY NOTES.



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EDITOR'S PREFACE.

THE fate which usually attends political and satirical writings that owe their origin to passing events, has in no way affected the *POETRY OF THE ANTI-JACOBIN*, which, after a lapse of more than fifty years, still continues to interest and delight. Public opinion never fails, sooner or later, to arrive at a just conclusion as to the merits both of individuals and actions; and though it may often neglect to preserve a meritorious work, never perpetuates a worthless one. Poetry which lashed with so remorseless a hand the patriotic proceedings, and held up to ridicule the persons and habits, of the most distinguished Whig leaders, must have possessed no common merit to have won the encomiums of such liberal politicians and such critics as *MACINTOSH* and *JEFFREY*, *MOORE* and *BYRON*.

Mr. Moore, in his *Life of Sheridan*, observes, "The *Rolliad* and the *Anti-Jacobin* may, on their respective sides of the question, be considered as models of that style of political satire whose lightness and vivacity give it the appearance of proceeding rather from the wantonness of wit than of ill-nature, and whose very malice, from the fancy with which it is mixed up, like certain kinds of fire-works, explodes in sparkles."

As the poems refer to occurrences long since past,

a rapid glance at the state of events at that time may render them more intelligible to the generality of readers.

The affairs of England were then in a critical position. The ministry of Mr. Pitt was carrying on a fierce war with republican France, the necessity for which had split the public into two great parties. The liberal party alleged, that "the whole misfortunes of Europe and all the crimes of France had arisen from the iniquitous coalition of kings to overturn its infant freedom;—that, if its government had been left alone, it would neither have stained its hands with innocent blood at home nor pursued plans of aggrandizement abroad; and that the Republic, relieved from the pressure of external danger, and no longer roused by the call of patriotic duty, would have quietly turned its swords into pruning-hooks, and, renouncing the allurements of foreign conquests, thought only of promoting the internal felicity of its citizens."

These sentiments, though supported by the extraordinary eloquence of Fox, Sheridan, Erskine, and others, had but little weight with the minister or the great body of the public. It was impossible to deny, that the power of the French Republic was daily increasing, and threatened the subjugation of the greater part of Europe. Bonaparte had overrun Italy, and broken the power of Austria, which, by the treaty of Leoben, was compelled to cede the Netherlands to France, allow the free navigation of the Rhine, and recognise the independence of the newly-erected Italian republics. Spain, also, had declared war against Britain, which was thus left to contend singly against the power of France; for the Directory had refused the basis of peace proposed by Lord Malmesbury,

that of a mutual restitution of conquests. To add to these embarrassments, during the year 1797, credit became affected, and the Bank of England suspended cash payments; mutinies broke out in the fleets at Spithead and the Nore; and Ireland was on the verge of rebellion. But the talents of Mr. Pitt were equal to the occasion, and his power rose higher than ever, when his prognostications were shortly after (in December 1797) confirmed by the unprovoked attack upon Switzerland by the French. The infamy of this proceeding was equal to its impolicy; for nothing ever done by the revolutionary government had so powerful an effect in cooling the ardour of its partisans in Europe, and opening the eyes of the intelligent and respectable classes in every other country to their ultimate designs. Its effect on the friends of freedom in England may be judged of from the indignant protest of Sir JAMES MACKINTOSH, himself once a warm admirer of the French Revolution, who, in his defence of Jean Peltier, in 1803, for a libel on Bonaparte, declared, "the invasion and destruction of Switzerland an act, in comparison with which all the deeds of rapine and blood perpetrated in the world are innocence itself." Even before this, the true character of the Revolution had been detected by the democratic COLERIDGE, who gave public utterance to his feelings of horror and disgust in that noble *Ode to France* written in February 1797. In a word, to say nothing of her other conquests, France, at the beginning of 1798, had three affiliated republics at her side, the Batavian, Cisalpine, and the Ligurian; before its close she had organized three more, the Helvetic, the Roman, and the Parthenopeian.