

**THE LOVES OF
TROILUS
AND CRESEID**

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The loves of Troilus and Creseid by Geoffrey Chaucer

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GEOFFREY CHAUCER

**THE LOVES OF
TROILUS
AND CRESEID**

THE LOVES OF
TROILUS and CRESEID,

WRITTEN BY

CHAUCER;

WITH

A COMMENTARY,

By SIR FRANCIS KINASTON:

NEVER BEFORE PUBLISHED.

O, that the winter of our discontent
Were glorious summer made by smiling peace;
And all the clouds that low'r upon this life,
In the deep bosom of the ocean bury'd!
Then might we chaunt sweet ditties highly penn'd,
Upon the wanton ruffles lay us down,
And rest the head in gentle maiden's lap,
While she sung soft the song that pleaseth us!

SHAKESPEARE, *with Variation.*

LONDON,

Printed for and Sold by F. G. WALDRON,
At No. 18, in Prince's Street, opposite Gerrard Street, St. Ann's,
M.DCCCXVI.

ADVERTISEMENT.

IT hath been justly observed, in one of the Reviews, that, "to the casual circumstance of having the manuscript in his possession we owe the folly which has characterized many an editor of old literature; and been the origin," or rather perpetuation, "of much mouldy dulness:"—but even *that* folly may be thought more excusable than such an undiscerning editor's obtrusion of his own worthless writings.

The late Dr. *Johnson* being asked his opinion of the expediency of Mr. *Derrick's* republishing an old book, with his usual bluntness replied,—“Why, Sir, if you *must* print, it had better be some other person's nonsense than your own.” And yet, if one *must* print, how shall an indiscriminating editor know what to rescue from oblivion? those pieces he hath already revived being, by professed criticks, in one journal highly praised, in another severely reprobated!

In the present instance, however, the regret of the learned for the supposed loss of a valuable manuscript; with the earnest request that, if in being, its possessor would no longer withhold it from the publick, as cited in the following extracts; will, it is hoped, be considered as strong incentives to the restoring of this work to the curious.

A Latin translation of the entire poem, two books only of which have been already printed, with a most erudite Latin commentary on the whole, form a moiety of this long-lost manuscript; and will, if patronized by the learned, be published, so soon as the Original poem and English commentary shall have been completed.

The poem, though given exactly from the manuscript, has received a few interpolations from former editions, or conjecture, all which are placed between brackets; the text, or at least the orthography of it, varies a little from that of the two books published in 4to. 1635, by Sir *Francis Kinaston*, both text and commentary being
now

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now printed literatim from the manuscript: the former might have been made more correct, had greater liberties been taken; the latter will, it is presumed, be found to contain the fruit of much elaborate research, illustrative of antique phraseology, customs, literature, and manners; to abound in anecdote, biography, history, and criticism; and to comprise such multifarious information on recondite subjects as, perhaps, the revival of even the Shakspearean manuscripts will scarcely produce matter that will exceed.

Occasional additions to the commentary, placed between brackets, have been made by the editor, which he trusts will be received with indulgence; he having no other view than the elucidation of such passages as seemed to require it, and diffidently submitting the whole to the candour of the sagacious critic: conscious that he hath, from the casual circumstance of the manuscript being in his possession, undertaken a task more suited to a *Tyrwhitt*, were he living; to whose admirable edition of "*The Canterbury Tales of Chaucer*" this work may, when completed, be no improper Supplement.

The second portion, which is proposed to be published early in the ensuing month, will consist of a considerable part of the poem, and the commentary to the same extent; without any adventitious matter, occasional additions to the latter excepted: and the remainder will be produced with all convenient speed.

In the course of the publication will be given a portrait of *Sir Francis Knaflon*, of whom there is not at present any print extant, engraven from an original drawing, conjectured to be by *Vandyck*, prefixed to the manuscript.

F. G. W.

December 1, 1795.

INTRODUCTORY EXTRACTS.

“ IN 1635, Sir *Francis Kinaſton*, of *Otely*, in *Shropſhire*, published the *Fiſt* and *Second* Books of *Troilus* and *Crefide*, with an elegant *Latin* verſion of them in rhyme, dedicated to *Pat. Junius*, Library Keeper to the King: and in the *Epifile* to the Reader, he promiſes to tranſlate the remaining books in the ſame manner; and in caſe that *Effay* met with the approbation of the Learned to publiſh the whole, with a *Comment* or *Notes* for the fuller illuſtration of that poem. And it ſeems he lived to finiſh this work, though not to publiſh it; for I have been informed that there was a *MS.* of it in the hands of the late *Dr. Henry Aldricke*, Dean of *Chriſt Church, Oxon*, (whoſe name is never to be mentioned by a member of that ſociety without the utmoſt reſpect and gratitude) out of which *Mr. Urry* procured ſome of the notes to be tranſcribed, which have been made uſe of in the *Gloſſary*.

“ I could never learn what became of that *MS.* but I am perſuaded if it falls into the hands of a

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perſon

person capable to judge of it, he will not grudge the learned world the use of so valuable a piece by suppressing it, or delaying its publication." Preface to *Urry's CHAUCER*; folio, 1721, sig. m.

"Sir Francis Kynaston, of Otely in Shropshire, published the First and Second Books of a Latin version of Troilus and Creseide, and completed his Translation of, and Notes upon, the other three; and from some specimens that are extant in the Glossary at the end of Mr. Urry's edition, the world may well perceive, how valuable a performance we are deprived of, by the loss or concealment of his manuscript."

[*Vide*] "Glossary to Chaucer, p. 47. voc. *morter*."

BIOGRAPHIA BRITANNICA, folio, 1784, vol. 3. p. 466. n. U.

"Sir Francis Kynaston's Latin MS. translation of Troilus and Creseide (the loss or concealment of which is regretted by Dr. Campbell in note U) was sold with the library of the Rev. J. H. Hindley, A. M. in March, 1793, and purchased by Mr. Waldron, of Drury-Lane Theatre. It contained the five books of Troilus, with the Testament of Creseida, by R. Henderson (or Henderson, as Lord Hailes and Mr. Pinkerton discriminate

nate

nate him) as a sixth book. Each stanza of Chaucer's text is followed by the Latin version, and interspersed with a variety of curious and intelligent remarks. As the imprimatur of Tho. Wykes, Jan. [*recte* Jun.] 1640, is affixed to the last page, it appears that the whole work was prepared for publication, though Dr. C. says, the two first books alone were printed."

Farther Addenda to the Second, Third, and Fourth Volumes of the BIOGRAPHIA BRITANNICA. Communicated by Mr. Park.

BIOG. BRIT. Folio, 1793, Vol. 5, Art. CHAUCER (Geoffry).

The two first books only, so far as I have ever seen or heard, were printed in Latin and English, without notes, in 4to. with the following title-page:

AMORUM
TROILI
Et
CRESIDÆ
Libri duo priores
Anglico-Latini.
Oxoniz,
Excudebat *Johannes Lichfield.*
Anno Domini
1635.
B 2

It is preceded by a Latin dedication to Junius, and an address to the candid reader; ten copies of Latin commendatory verses, five of English, and one of old English, in imitation of Chaucer: occupying, together, thirteen leaves. *

The

* The copy of verses, in imitation of Chaucer, which will be reprinted with the others hereafter, is subscribed *Francis James Art. Bac. Nov-Coll. Socius*. who is also author of the following similar lines, prefixed to "The Loves of CLITOPHON and LEUCIPPE. A most elegant History, written in Greeke by ACHILLES TATIUS: and now Englished. OXFORD, Printed by WILLIAM TURNER, for JOHN ALLAM. 1638." *Small octavo.*

To his Friend *A. H.* on his Translation of *Achilles Tattius*, on the Loves of *Leucippe* and *Clitophon*.

Incipit F. J.

*Friend, I thy booke compare with swilk of yore,
With mighty deeds of worthy Heliodore,
Proud Antioch's Prelate: whan he wrote his werk
And was forthby depos'd: Thilk Asian Clerk
Hight Bishop too, yet lives, whose buxom pen
Maugre all envy made him man of men.
As whilom for the lore of Engeland
Gaufrid an orpyd knight toke upon bond
To wryten thilk throwe; for all ages after
Of Troyl hight Pryam's son and¹ Calchas daughter;*

¹ *Cressida.*

"The