THE COMPLETE WORKS OF SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS: FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY. IN THREE VOLUMES, VOL. III

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SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS

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COMPLETE WORKS

OF

SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS,

FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE BOYAL ACADEMY.

KA HTIW

ORIGINAL MEMOIR, AND ANECDOTES

OF

THE AUTHOR.

Quietè et purè atque eleganter acta: Ætatis placida ac lenis recordatio.—Cicero.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. III.

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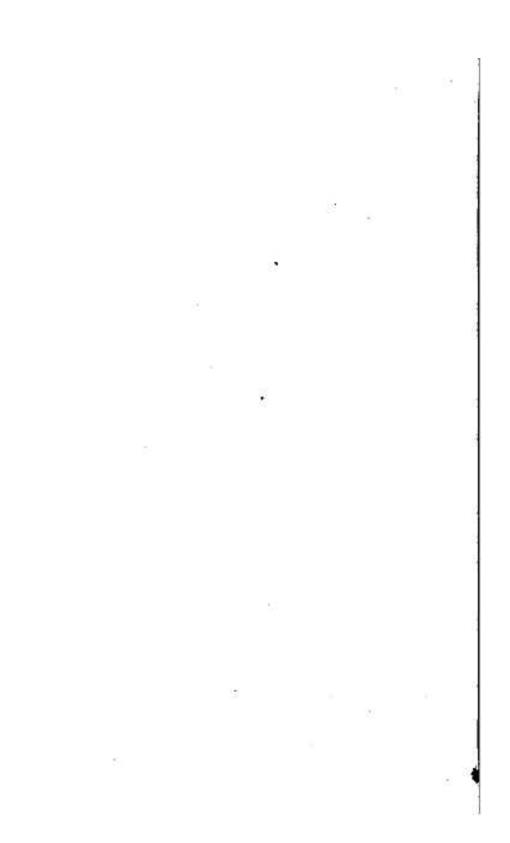
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THE

ART OF PAINTING,

OF

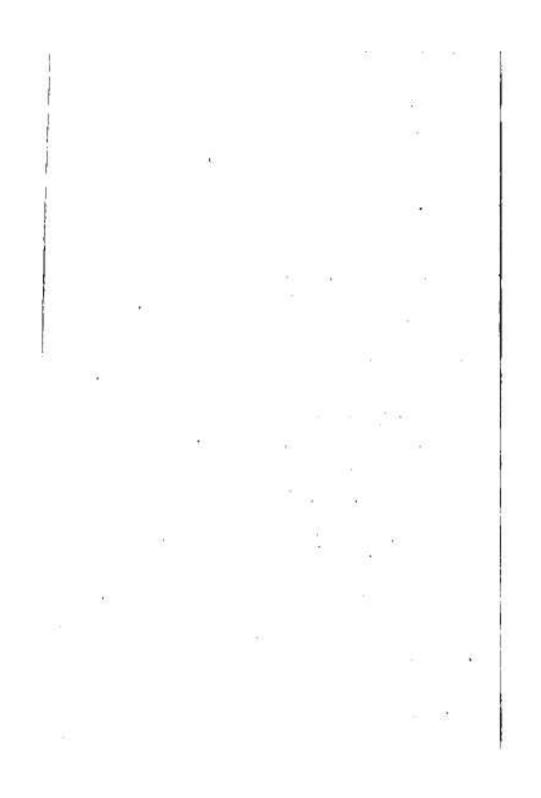
CHARLES ALPHONSE DU FRESNOY;

TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH VERSE

BY WILLIAM MASON, M.A.

WITH ANNOTATIONS

BY SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS.



EPISTLE

I

TO

SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS.

WHEN Dryden, worn with sickness, bow'd with years,

Was doom'd (my friend, let pity warm thy tears)
The galling pang of penury to feel,
For ill-plac'd loyalty and courtly zeal,
To see that laurel which his brows o'erspread,
Transplanted, droop on Shadwell's barren head,
The bard oppress'd, yet not subdu'd by fate,
For very bread descended to translate:
And he, whose fancy, copious as his phrase,
Could light at will expression's brightest blaze,
On Freenoy's lay employ'd his studious hour;
But niggard there of that melodious power,
His pen, in haste the hireling task to close,
Transform'd the studied strain to careless prose,
Which, fondly lending faith to French pretence,
Mistook its meaning, or obscur'd its sense.

Yet still he pleas'd, for *Dryden* still must please, Whether with artless elegance and ease