DE REGIMINE PRINCIPUM: A POEM

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649560981

De Regimine Principum: A Poem by Thomas Occleve & Thomas Wright

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

www.triestepublishing.com

THOMAS OCCLEVE & THOMAS WRIGHT

DE REGIMINE PRINCIPUM: A POEM

Trieste

DE REGIMINE PRINCIPUM,

A POEM

BY THOMAS OCCLEVE,

WRITTEN IN THE REIGN OF HENRY IV.

EDITED FOR THE FIRST TIME

BY THOMAS WRIGHT, ESQ. M.A., F.S.A., ETC.
CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE INSTITUTE OF FRANCE
(ACADEMIE DES INSCRIPTIONS ET BELLES LETTRES).

PRINTED FOR THE

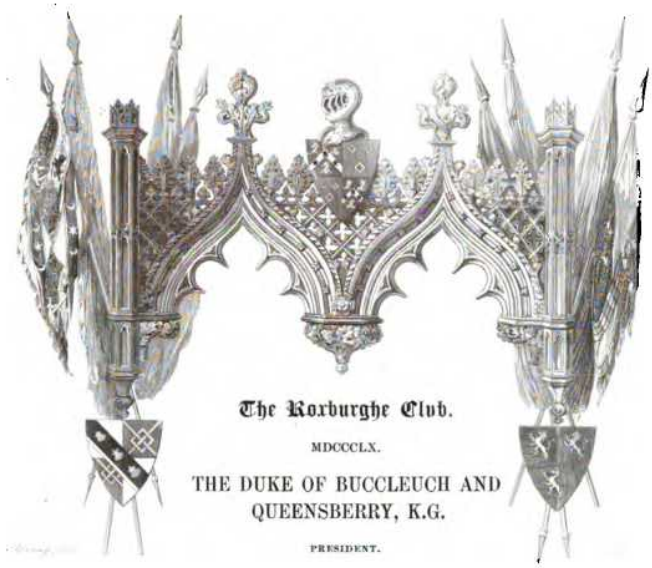
Roxburghe Club.

LONDON:
J. B. NICHOLS AND SONS, 25, PARLIAMENT STREET.

MDCCCLX.

DE REGIMINE PRINCIPUM.

ROXBURGHE CLUB.



PREFACE.

THOMAS OCCLEVE is one of those writers of whose history we know nothing further than that which is found in his writings; but fortunately in this case many of these are of a personal character. A number of his shorter poems were contained in a manuscript which, after passing through the hands of Askew, of George Mason, and of Heber, was sold when Heber's library was dispersed by public auction. Mason published a selection from it in a quarto volume printed in 1796.* In the first of these poems, which is entitled in the MS. *La male regle de T. Hoccleve*, he tells us how he had impoverished himself and fallen into distress by his wasteful living. Addressing riches as a thing with which he was then little acquainted, but of which he had enjoyed the advantage in his youth, he goes on to say:—

My freendes seiden unto me ful ofte
My misreule me cause wolde a fit,
And redden me in esy wyse and softe
A lyte and lyte to withdrawen it;
But that nat mighte synke into my wit,
So was the lust yrooted in myn herte:
And now I am so rype unto my pit,
That scarsely I may it nat asterte.

* Poems by Thomas Hoccleve, never before printed: selected from a MS. in the possession of George Mason; with a Preface, Notes, and Glossary. London: Printed by C. Roworth, for Leigh and Sotheby, York Street, Covent Garden. MDCCXCVI.