

OF ANAGRAMS

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Of anagrams by H. B. Wheatley

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H. B. WHEATLEY

OF ANAGRAMS

NUGÆ LITERARIÆ.

“ As dogs hunt rats, so would he rifle
The dustiest nooks to find a trifle.”

~~W5573nz~~

OF ANAGRAMS,

A MONOGRAPH TREATING OF THEIR
HISTORY FROM THE EARLIEST AGES
TO THE PRESENT TIME; WITH AN
INTRODUCTION, CONTAINING
NUMEROUS SPECIMENS OF
MACARONIC POETRY,
PUNNING MOTTOES,
RHOPALIC, SHAPED,
EQUIVOCAL, LYON,
AND ECHOVERSES,
ALLITERATION,
ACROSTICS,
LIPOGRAMS, CHRONOGRAMS,
LOGOGRAMS, PALINDROMES,
BOUITS
RIMES,
BY

H. B. WHEATLEY.

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AUTHOR

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PREFACE.

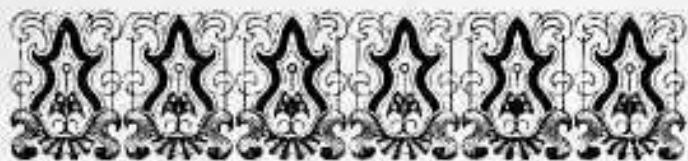
THE Anagrams, and other verbal and literary curiosities of a kindred nature, contained in the following pages, I have drawn from various sources, and, amongst others, several of the works mentioned in the "Catalogue of Books relating to Anagrams," given in the Appendix, to which I am largely indebted. In making extracts I have always endeavoured to consult the original authors, and to trace the anagrams, which have come down to us through many divergent streams, to their fountain head. Whilst seeking thus for the original authorities of the best known anagrams which we possess, and which each succeeding writer has been content to copy from his predecessor without acknowledgment, I have discovered many others

which have never been reprinted, and which, consequently, are almost unknown, except to the curious in these matters. I have endeavoured to acknowledge the sources of my information; but where no authority for a specimen is given, it must be presumed that it is well known, or has passed through so many hands that it can be attributed with certainty to none.


HENRY B. WHEATLEY.

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INTRODUCTION.

 NAGRAMS have now for so long a period been in little esteem that they are rarely met with, except when degraded from their original purpose, and grouped under the head of riddles ; in which case they are to be found in magazines and pocket books in close proximity to Rebuses, Enigmas and Charades, sometimes headed by the title of *Transpositions*. When we consider therefore in how little regard they are now held, we shall not be surprised that there are few who are aware that these literary amusements once knew better days ; that there were times, when great poets considered the making of Anagrams and Acrostics a pleasing and elegant relaxation ; and when some individuals were so expert in their construction, that they obtained the honorable designation of " Anagrammatists."