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R O W E .

From a Bust in Westminster Abbey.

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P O E M S  
O F  
R O W E  
A N D  
T I C K E L L.

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W-83

THE  
WORKS  
OF THE  
ENGLISH POETS.

WITH  
PREFACES,  
BIOGRAPHICAL AND CRITICAL,  
BY SAMUEL JOHNSON.

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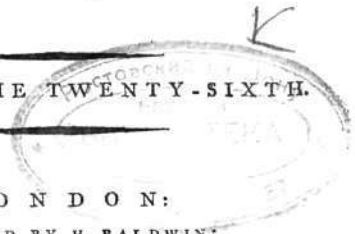
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M DCC LXXIX.



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THE  
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T H O M S O N,  
H A M M O N D,  
A N D  
C O L L I N S.

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E N D O F T H O M S O N ' S P O E M S. - -

Reason may chide the faults she cannot cure,  
 And pains, which long we scorn'd, we oft endure;  
 Though wiser cares employ your studious mind,  
 Form'd with a soul so elegantly kind,  
 Your breast may lose the calm it long has known,  
 And learn my woes to pity, by its own.

PROLOGUE to Lillo's Elmerick.\*

NO labour'd scenes to-night adorn our stage,  
 Lillo's plain sense would here the heart engage.  
 He knew no art, no rule; but warmly thought  
 From passion's force, and, as he felt, he wrote.  
 His Barnwell once no critic's test could bear,  
 Yet from each eye still draws the natural tear.  
 With generous candour hear his latest strains,  
 And let kind pity shelter his remains.  
 Deprest by want, afflicted by disease,  
 Dying he wrote, and dying wish'd to please.  
 Oh, may that wish be now humanely paid,  
 And no harsh critic vex his gentle shade.  
 'Tis yours his unsupported fame to save,  
 And bid one laurel grace his humble grave.

\* See the Epilogue to this Tragedy among the Poems of Lord Lyttelton. In the Life of Lillo, however, that Epilogue is confidently ascribed to Mr. Hammond.

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guishing excellencies of such pieces as bewail departed friendship, or beauty, he was an almost unequalled master. He knew perfectly to exhibit such circumstances, peculiar to the objects, as awaken the influences of pity; and while, from his own great sensibility, he felt what he wrote, he naturally addressed himself to the feelings of others.

To read such lines as the following, all beautiful and tender as they are, without corresponding emotions of pity, is surely impossible:

“ The tender thought on thee shall dwell,  
 Each lonely scene shall thee restore,  
 For thee the tear be duly shed;  
 Belov'd, till life can charm no more;  
 And mourn'd, 'till Pity's self be dead.”

The Ode on the Death of Thomson seems to have been written in an excursion to Richmond by water. The rural scenery has a proper effect in an ode to the memory of a poet, much of whose merit lay in descriptions of the same kind, and the appellations of “ Druid,” and “ meek Nature's child,” are happily characteristic. For the better understanding of this ode, it is necessary to remember, that Mr. Thomson lies buried in the church of Richmond,

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END OF COLLINS'S POEMS.

