

P O E M S,

CONSISTING OF

ODES, SONGS, PASTORALS, SATYRS, &c.

AND A DESCRIPTIVE POEM IN FOUR BOOKS, CALLED

P R O S P E C T S.

BY THE REVEREND

GEORGE SACKVILLE COTTER, A. M.

OF TRINITY-COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

I N T W O V O L U M E S.

D E D U C T U M D I C A M C A R M E N—V I R G.

V O L. I.

C O R K:

PRINTED BY WILLIAM FLYN, AT THE SHAKESPEARE.

MDCCLXXXVIII.

T O T H E

R I G H T H O N O U R A B L E

T H E

C o u n t e s s e s o f S H A N N O N .

M A D A M ,

IT is observable that the opinion of the Public with respect to the merits of any publication, is directed by persons of real judgment, and Literary knowledge ; The Genera-

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lity of People have not leisure to criticise, nor inclination to form a judgment for themselves ; Many have not suitable abilities to the task, and thus the right of Decision is wisely consigned to those of polite Education, extensive Reading, and elegant Taste in Literature.

This Consideration induced me (when I proposed to publish my Poems) to seek the arbitration of some eminent person, known to possess judgment competent to Criticism ; of one whose Taste was
elegant

elegant and refined, and whose Understanding was clear and discerning ;---I should have erred had I put in Competition the abilities of any Arbitrator with your Ladyship's well known taste and understanding ; for without flattery, and as in speaking truth from the real dictates of my mind I recede not, there is not any one of whose abilities in Criticism, (tho' they are so mildly exercised) I am so well convinced.

Your

Your Ladyship will believe me when I assert that I am in every respect diffident and doubtful, whether in my attempts at versification it is in my power to exhibit the least specimen of poetical Abilities; Which occasions me, in the bold attempt of committing poems to the press, to appeal for Decision in their cause to a tribunal that can be relied on for equity and skill; and thus, Madam, I justify my presumption when I take the liberty of troubling you with the perusal of my

my Poetry, requesting your Ladyship will pardon, and patiently excuse the interruption it may give to studies and employments more useful and agreeable.

Sincerity directs my Pen, and in conformity thereto I freely declare, that whether you condemn or approve, I shall estimate the Quality of the Poems according to your Ladyship's opinion of them---I ask not Clemency or Partiality in your decision, tho' my rejection of awards of such a nature arises not from a
reliance

reliance on the merits of my Composition ; for in truth, I much doubt the success of the Poetry when it shall be examined by the nice eye of a well-judging Critic ; Tho' friends have flattered me with a kind approbation ; tho' their partiality has stamped already a seeming value upon my work ; notwithstanding the prosperous ray of Hope that brightened the outset of my undertaking, I cannot but confess, even now, that a just opinion of the real qualities of the
 Poetry

Poetry remains still to be ascertained within my own breast ; to which end, give me leave, Madam, to have recourse to that respectable judgment that is fully qualified to direct Poetical Talents much superior to mine ; and I am confident to say, that I shall deem your decision incontrovertible, from a conviction that your Ladyship's taste in Poetry, arising from natural Abilities, a cultivated Understanding, and extensive Reading, is more excellent than that of many Learned Men,
 and

and equal to the Taste of any one
whatsoever.

I trust these effusions of my real
thoughts will never be construed by
my Readers into a wish of flattery ;
They who have the Honour of your
Ladyship's acquaintance, will not
hesitate to give Testimony to these
assertions ; it would be superfluous
to inform them (who are as well
convinced of the following truth as
I am) that Lady Shannon possesses
every Grace of Person, Mind, and
Manners, sincere and unaffected
Piety

Piety and Charity, and every
amiable Virtue that can adorn the
highest Female character ; I shall
not therefore extend this Dedication
to a greater length, being solicitous
for an opportunity of subscribing
myself,

Madam,

With the greatest respect,

Your Ladyship's

most obedient and

most humble Servant,

GEORGE SACKVILLE COTTER.

*Straville, near Cork,
February 1788.*

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I N S T A L L A T I O N
O D E
(For M U S I C.)
ADDRESSED TO THE
KNIGHTS of ST. PATRICK.

S T A N Z A.

AONIAN Maids, prepare the song,
(To you the wond'rous pow'rs belong)
The strains exalt ;—loud strike the lyre, that wound
To pitch sublime may rouse a madd'ning sound ;
Or softly sunk to notes,
Where breath melodious floats,
By Zephyrs borne in breezy gales,
To where a heav'nly calm prevails ;
But rather in a stately pomp and flow,
Shall the heart-thrilling solemn Music flow,
And sing, far as the mightiest concords go
From trumpet and the loud embold'ning drum,
Of Knights, that in Majestic Order come.

A

CHORUS.

C H O R U S.

Now glorious thoughts the heart exalt,
 And loftiest sounds with all combine ;
 Lift up the strain—Arouse—inspired
 With universal voice conjoin.

S T R O P H E.

Hark ! I hear the tabret's sound,
 With instrumental notes profound
 Low-mingling, while the Harp so sweet
 Makes the gay Symphony compleat.
 Strike on the festive Tabor ;—these
 Glad sounds from heart rebounding, please.
 Let the tones swell, or constant flow,
 Where full and breathing organs blow,
 And waft the deepen'd peals that roll,
 Far thro' the concave of the pole.

S T A N Z A.

From Indus to th' expanse around
 Of regions by wide ocean bound,
 Or thence, where Western Climates far and near,
 With vast Pacific hold the balanc'd sphere,

Amidst

Amidst the Sons of Men
 We search and search again ;
 But nought of Glory, Pomp, or State
 Superior find, or justly great
 Compared with these full splendours, where combines
 All Grandeur, that in thrones or palace shines,
 That Nobles of the noblest virtues joins,
 And holds conspicuous forth in social band
 The great and much-loved Patriots of the land.

C H O R U S.

Gladden ye people ! as in shade
 Of Erebus the vallies rung,
 When rocks re-echoed Orpheus' voice,
 And festive once the Manes sung.

A N T I S T R O P H E.

Now softer and inviting more
 Arcadian Pipes a sweetness pour,
 And ev'ry Muse that with delight
 They oft have charm'd again invite.

A 2

'Tis

'Tis well—nought greater bliss inspires,
 Than full-concerted num'rous Lyres,
 That vibrate mingling to and fro
 Each Note, that Music can bestow,
 And touch'd judicious, soften all
 With Tenor's modulated fall.

C H O R U S.

Hail! Joy extreme and welcomed full!

How gladly we thy grateful hour embrace!
 In such a cause who should forbear,
 But with loud echoes rend th' aerial space.

S T A N Z A.

As we in festive loud acclaims
 Raise justly these illustrious names,
 So in great Alexander's triumphs, high
 And Pop'lar voices echoed to the sky,
 There Lydian measures well,
 In pleasing accents fell,
 And sung the mighty Conqu'ror's praise
 To slower strains, or Roundelays.

They

They erst the one victorious Hero sung,
 But here loud Voice with distant-reaching Tongue
 From many-headed crowds hath praises rung
 Of these collected Great, so justly bound
 With bays, and with Hibernia's honours crown'd,

S E M I C H O R U S.

Mirth, advance, and social Glee,
 From your blest recesses free;
 Forth your gay Companions all
 Bring at Pleasure's sprightly call.
 In order just to moods advance,
 Sounding thro' the mazy dance;
 In sylvan scenes the measures lead,
 In wood and grove and brighter mead;
 And where the Oak its shade profound,
 Stretches o'er the hallow'd ground;
 Or on the grassy verdure, strains
 Shall call the wood-Nymphs to the plains.
 Chance the Muse may string the Lyre,
 And such superior notes inspire,
 As Rhodope' from Orpheus heard,
 List'ning to the pow'rful bard,

A 3

Or

[6]

Or witnessed Thebes from vocal shell,
When skill'd Amphion sung so well.

C H O R U S.

For glorious thoughts the heart exalt ;
And loftiest sounds with all combine ;
Lift up the strain—Arouse—inspired
With universal voice conjoin.

O D E

[7]

O D E.

(For M U S I C.)

ADDRESSED TO THEIR GRACES

The DUKE and DUCHESS of RUTLAND,
On their arrival in C O R K.

S T A N Z A.

TO sweetly flowing notes attune,
And softly wake the trembling lyre ;
Inspiring Muse, the festive strain
Enrapture with Poetic fire ;
From these blest regions far begone
Heart-rending Care and Woe forlorn !
Hibernia's noblest Virtues come,
In RUTLAND, Great, Majestic, borne.

C H O R U S.

Of these Ierne's southern climes,
Rejoice, ye happiest Sons, rejoice ;
And let the jocund glow of Mirth,
Exalt a loud, but tuneful Voice.

STROPHE.

O D E,

ADDRESSED TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS
PRINCE WILLIAM HENRY,
ON HIS ARRIVAL IN CORK.

S T A N Z A.

SEE with furl'd fail the vessel ride,
As Cannons roaring fill th' impetuous tide,
And Royal Prefence with rough voice allow !
Behold ! the Anchor falls ! the harbour'd Prow
Is moor'd by joyful Seaman's hand !
Around ye Waters, gently flow,
Placid Zephyrs, mildly blow,
Ye waves, assuage your murmur hoarse,
While WILLIAM leaves his wat'ry course,
And deigns to visit glad IERNE's land.

C H O R U S.

Dominions all of England's King,
Peoples and States, Britannia's Monarch hail !
For Loyalty can rouse a rapt'rous string,
And praise of mighty GEORGE shall never fail !

With

With all the founds we praise
 That num'rous Voice can raise !
 Greet the kind Ruler of his Subjects true !
 The Son we hail, whom one day all shall view
 Triumphant o'er Britannia's foes,
 The dazzling Sun, that early rose
 To wafh his splendours o'er the deep,
 Whom Vict'ry's felf shall fafeft keep,
 When the great Hero to the aftonifh'd fight,
 In Britain's Caufe, if Foes prefs forely on her,
 Thro' thund'ring Squadrons dauntlefs pours the fight,
 And Navies leads to Glory, Triumph, Honour

S T R O P H E.

O Joy unfelt and unconceiv'd before !
 Erft to Ierne fuch hath never been !
 Lo ! on her Loyal and her faithful Shore,
 The much-lov'd GEORGE'S Royal Offspring fern !
 What heart expands not with the thought ?
 What mind but feels its joy, its good ?
 No Tongue is filent ! diftant brought
 Hibernians throng to honour Royal blood !

ANTISTROPHIL.

A N T I S T R O P H E.
 Happy was the Gale
 That fill'd the fwelling fail,
 And with propitious breeze,
 To bleff Hibernia's good,
 Wafed thee hither, Virtuous Prince,
 Safe thro' the rough Atlantic flood ;
 All gratitude be ours,
 Ierne WILLIAM deigns to favour,
 Some time in War's (far be they) dang'rous hours
 His Love, and Prowefs of his Arm fhall fave Her,

C H O R U S.

Then lift the founds of Song !
 Unrivall'd Themes of Loyalty and Praise
 (To Ireland's Prince all Honours full belong)
 Awake our joyful tho' aspiring Lays ;
 Approach we then, our voices raife,
 To found our King and Prince's praise ;
 Long may WILLIAM glad the place
 Where ev'ry heart affection pays !

But

But should the Monarch call him home,
Or further o'er the seas to roam,
All Good attend him, Safety, Honour there,
Is each HIBERNIAN'S wish, and ev'ry Subject's pray'r.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

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OF TRINITY-COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

AGRESTEM TENUI MEDITABOR ARUNDINE MUSAN. VIRG.

V O L. II.

C O R K:

PRINTED BY WILLIAM FLYN, AT THE SHAKESPEARE.

MDCCLXXXVIII.

P R E F A C E.

THE following Poem claims the attention of the Reader to the truth of it's descriptions ; from Nature the Prospects were faithfully delineated, and in general from the most pleasing and picturesque appearances of the Rural Landscape ; as a Composition of measured Numbers, it attempts in general a system of melodious metre, flowing, musical,

and void of harsh founding words ; for the Writer endeavoured to harmonize the Versification to the feelings of those who possess tuneful ears, and exactness of Taste in reading and smoothly accenting the lines of Poetry.

The Latin among ancient Languages, among the modern the Italian being so justly praised for the harmonious sounds of their Verse
and

and words in recitation, the Author of this Poem wishes to prove that the English Tongue is capable of sweetness of Numbers, not exceeded in any Language---It disclaims the assistance of Rhyme ---Blank verse not long since was subjected to a rough Tenor and style of Composition, which was even thought by some to be necessary to it's formation ; Poets despairing
pairing

pairing of their skill or success in removing bad Qualities and disadvantages so evident to *their* discernment, were discouraged from writing in this purest mode of Poetry ; Many Readers have been found to attribute the praise of Harmony to the most discordant lines, such was the perversion of Taste, and deficiency of Musical Judgment ; and thus a Sanction was given to harsh and unpolish'd Ver-
 fication ;

fication ; From time to time They whose ears were offended by jargon of English blank Verse, had recourse to Rhyme to supply the failure of harmonious Numbers ; and the latter mode of poetry became in consequence most frequent and prevalent ;---However in the present day it must be allowed, our Language is so much improved, and so remarkably copious, that Words of pleas-
 ing

ing Sound are always to be found by an attentive Versificator, and that English Metre needs not the subterfuge of Rhyme to supply an agreeable melody to the Reader's ear.

It is necessary for the Author of the following Poem to avow an Intention of adhering to Simplicity, of avoiding bombast, and obscurity, the latter of which is too often connected with
blank

blank Verse ; It is left to others to decide whether He has properly succeeded in this Endeavour without any diminution of the Dignity of Verse, without descending from the lofty heights of poetry to the humble regions of common Prose.

It is an essential Quality of the Descriptive to be easily understood ; Nature requires to be cloathed in a simple and unstudied dress ; affectation

tation and pedantry should be excluded from every Poem ; an appearance of Labour spoils the effect ; In Description, the Objects should be readily conveyed from one Imagination to another ; It is a mistaken rule of Taste to suppose an Excellence contained in obscure transferrals of words and phrases ; --- Immoderate length of Sentences is not less liable to objection ; Where such

Qualities

Qualities are predominant they never fail to produce disgust ; For the Images, reflected from the Poet's fancy, that ought to flash on the Imagination of others, brightly and fully communicated, glimmer but faint thro' the lengthened space of a tardy perusal ; and tho' after some investigation they may discover, amidst darkness, dawning gleams of Beauty, such are interruptedly

deprived

deprived of a splendid and powerful effect.

Should this Poem be deemed profane, Even such a Defect is more tolerable in the Descriptive, than that of Bombast, or Obscurity ; for in simple prose, the Scenes of Nature truly described may please the Fancy, but in Poetry scarce intelligible must fail of their effect.

No other Poem or writing what-

soever

soever is here imitated ; This was written solely for the amusement of a leisure hour, and its origin was an Indulgence of the Fancy in viewing the Rural Landscape.

Without further delay it is presented to the Reader.

P. S. It may be necessary to mention the date of this Poem, namely, that it was finished early in the Year 1784.

P R O S P E C T S.

B O O K I.

TUMULTUOUS world of busy care, farewell I bid
Farewel, ye splendid Cities, restless seats
Of mis'ry I to the tranquil scenes I fly
Of rural bliss, where Nature opes to view
In artless charms display'd, where placid ease
Invites restless, there let Fancy roam,
And mark the circling Seasons—paint sincere
(For such to rapt'rous song the heart inspire)
Ætherial changes, differing Prospects all
Of Hill or Vale dispers'd, and each adorn'd
With animation, as becomes the scene.