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THE
WORKS
OF THE
ENGLISH POETS.

WITH
PREFACES,
BIOGRAPHICAL AND CRITICAL,
BY
SAMUEL JOHNSON, LL.D.

Re-edited,
WITH NEW BIOGRAPHICAL AND CRITICAL MATTER,
BY J. AIKIN, M.D.

VOL. IV.

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THE
POETICAL WORKS
OF
EDMUND SPENSER.

IN SIX VOLUMES.

FROM
THE TEXT OF J. UPTON.

WITH A
PREFACE, BIOGRAPHICAL AND CRITICAL,
BY J. AIKIN, M.D.

VOL. IV.

C O N T E N T S

OF THE

FOURTH VOLUME.

THE FAËRY QUEENE.

BOOK V.

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THE FIFTH BOOKE OF
THE FAERY QUEENE

CONTAYNING

THE LEGEND OF ARTEGALL OR OF JUSTICE.

I.

SO oft as I with state of present time
The image of the antique world compare,
Whenas mans age was in his freshest prime,
And the first blossome of faire vertue bare ;
Such oddes I finde twixt those, and these which are
As that, through long continuance of his course,
Me seemes the world is runne quite out of square
From the first point of his appointed sourse ;
And being once amisse growes daily wourse and
wourse :

II.

For from the golden age, that first was named,
It's now at earst become a stonie one ;
And men themselves, the which at first were framed
Of earthly mould, and form'd of flesh and bone,
Are now transformed into hardest stone ;
Such as behind their backs* (so backward bred)
Were throwne by Pyrrha and Deucalione :
And if then those may any worse be red,
They into that ere long will be degendered.

III.

Let none then blame me, if in discipline
 Of vertue and of civill uses lore
 I do not forme them to the common line
 Of present dayes which are corrupted sore ;
 But to the antique use which was of yore,
 When good was onely for itselfe desyred,
 And all men sought their owne, and none no more ;
 When iustice was not for most meed out-hyred,
 But simple truth did rayne, and was of all admyred.

IV.

For that which all men then did vertue call,
 Is now cald vice ; and that which vice was hight,
 Is now hight vertue, and so us'd of all :
 Right now is wrong, and wrong that was is right ;
 As all things else in time are chaunged quight :
 Ne wonder ; for the heavens revolution
 Is wandred farre from where it first was pight,
 And so doe make contrarie constitution
 Of all this lower world toward his dissolution.

V.

For whoso list into the heavens looke,
 And search the courses of the rowling spheares,
 Shall find that from the point where they first tooke
 Their setting forth, in these few thousand yeares
 They all are wandred much ; that plaine appears :
 For that same golden fleecy ram, which bore
 Phrixus and Helle from their stepdames feares,
 Hath now forgot where he was plast of yore,
 And shouldred hath the bull which fayre Europa
 bore :

VI.

And eke the bull hath with his bow-bent horne
 So hardly butted those two twinnes of Iove,
 That they have crusht the crab, and quite him borne
 Into the great Nemaean lions grove.
 So now all range, and doe at randon rove
 Out of their proper places farre away,
 And all this world with them amisse doe move,
 And all his creatures from their course astray ;
 Till they arrive at their last ruinous decay.

VII.

Ne is that same great glorious lampe of light,
 That doth enlumine all these lesser fyres,
 In better case, ne keepes his course more right,
 But is miscaried with the other spheres :
 For since the terme of fourteen hundred yeres,
 That learned Ptolomae his hight did take,
 He is declyned from that marke of theirs
 Nigh thirtie minutes to the southerne lake ;
 That makes me feare in time he will us quite forsake.

VIII.

And if to those Aegyptian wisards old
 (Which in star-read were wont have best insight)
 Faith may be given, it is by them told
 That since the time they first tooke the sunnes hight,
 Foure times his place he shifted hath in sight,
 And twice hath risen where he now doth west,
 And wested twice where he ought rise aright.
 But most is Mars amisse of all the rest ;
 And next to him old Saturne, that was wont be best.

IX.

For during Saturnes ancient raigne it's sayd
 That all the world with goodnesse did abound ;
 All loved vertue, no man was affrayd
 Of force, ne fraud in wight was to be found ;
 No warre was knowne, no dreadful trompets sound ;
 Peace universal rayn'd mongst men and beasts :
 And all things freely grew out of the ground :
 Iustice sate high ador'd with sollemne feasts,
 And to all people did divide her dred beheasts :

X.

Most sacred vertue she of all the rest,
 Resembling God in his imperiall might ;
 Whose souveraine powre is herein most exprest,
 That both to good and bad he dealeth right,
 And all his workes with iustice hath bedight.
 That powre he also doth to princes lend,
 And makes them like himselfe in glorious sight
 To sit in his own seate, his cause to end,
 And rule his people right, as he doth recommend.

XI.

Dread soverayne goddess, that doest highest sit
 In seate of iudgement in th'Almighties stead,
 And with magnificke might and wondrous wit
 Doest to thy people righteous doome aread,
 That furthest nations filles with awfull dread,
 Pardon the boldnesse of thy basest thrall,
 That dare discourse of so divine a read,
 As thy great iustice praysed over all ;
 The instrument whereof loe here thy Artgall.

CANTO I.

Arte gall trayn'd in iustice lore
 Irenæs quest pursewed ;
 He doeth avenge on Sanglier
 His ladies bloud embrewed.

I.

THOUGH vertue then were held in highest price,
 In those old times of which I doe intreat,
 Yet then likewise the wicked seede of vice
 Began to spring ; which shortly grew full great,
 And with their boughes the gentle plants did beat :
 But evermore some of the vertuous race
 Rose up, inspired with heroicke heat,
 That cropt the branches of the sient base,
 And with strong hand their fruitfull rancknes did
 deface.

II.

Such first was Bacchus, that with furious might
 All th' east before untam'd did over-ronne,
 And wrong repressed, and establisht right,
 Which lawlesse men had formerly fordonne :
 There iustice first her princely rule begonne.
 Next Hercules his like ensample shewed,
 Who all the west with'equall conquest wonne,
 And monstrous tyrants with his club subdued ;
 The club of iustice dread with kingly powre endewed.

III.

And such was he of whom I have to tell,
 The champion of true iustice, Artegall :
 Whom (as ye lately mote remember well)
 An hard adventure, which did then befall,
 Into redoubted perill forth did call ;
 That was to succour a distressed dame,
 Whom a strong tyrant did uniuſtly thrall,
 And from the heritage, which she did clame,
 Did with strong hand withhold ; Grantorto was his
 name.

IV.

Wherefore the lady, which Irena hight,
 Did to the faery queene her way addresse,
 To whom complayning her afflicted plight,
 She her besought of gracious redresse :
 That souveraine queene, that mightie emperesse,
 Whose glorie is to aide all suppliants pore,
 And of weake princes to be patronesse,
 Chose Artegall to right her to restore ;
 For that to her he seem'd best skild in righteous lore.

V.

For Artegall in iustice was upbrought
 Even from the cradle of his infancie,
 And all the depth of rightfull doome was taught
 By faire Astraea, with great industrie,
 Whilest here on earth she lived mortallie :
 For till the world from his perfection fell
 Into all filth and foule iniquitie,
 Astraea here mongst earthly men did dwell,
 And in the rules of iustice them instructed well.

VI.

Whiles through the world she walked in this sort,
Upon a day she found this gentle childe
Amongst his peres playing his childish sport ;
Whom seeing fit, and with no crime defilde,
She did allure with gifts and speaches milde
To wend with her : so thence him farre she brought
Into a cave from companie exilde,
In which she nounsled him, till yeares he raught ;
And all the discipline of iustice there him taught.

VII.

There she him taught to weigh both right and wrong
In equall ballance with due recompence,
And equitie to measure out along
According to the line of conscience,
Whenso it needs with rigour to dispence :
Of all the which, for want there of mankind,
She caused him to make experience
Upon wyld beasts, which she in woods did find,
With wrongfull powre oppressing others of their
kind.

VIII.

Thus she him trayned, and thus she him taught
In all the skill of deeming wrong and right,
Untill the ripenesse of mans yeares he raught ;
That even wilde beasts did feare his awfull sight,
And men admyr'd his over-ruling might ;
Ne any liv'd on ground that durst withstand
His dreadfull heast, much lesse him match in fight,
Or bide the horror of his wreakfull hand,
Whenso he list in wrath lift up his steely brand :

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