

re: C. Smith

PREFACE

the tide of the necessity of war, the most remarkable were that of Mr. *Paillard* on the *Propriety of concluding Peace*; Mr. *Mills* on the *Conduct of France towards Great Britain*; Mr. *Bonles*, on the *Objections to the War*, which he examines and refutes. On the opposite side, the *Lectures on the Conduct of Princes*, though extended by much irrelevant matter, and rendered heavy by the mode of that extension are best worthy of notice. But a production not originally intended for a pamphlet, *The Speeches of Lord Mornay*, delivered in the House of Commons, on Jan. 21, 1794, carried with it more complete conviction concerning the necessity of the war, than any single work. The proceedings of the French are there laid open, from their own documents, in the clearest and most perfect manner. Mr. *Brand*, in a most able tract on the propriety of *altering the constitution of the House of Commons*, has thrown many original lights on that important subject: which is also very ably handled in the appendix to Mr. *Pyet's Translation of Xenophon on the Athenian Government*; a production still more matterly than the French translation noticed in our second volume, (p. 215) and in all respects deserving attention. In a very excellent manner, Mr. *Owen* of C. C. Coll. Cambridge, drew up a *Retrospect*††, containing reflections on the state of religion and politics in France and Great Britain; and promises to be an eminent reasoner on political subjects. Two French pamphlets, after being much noticed in their original form, have been made English: by translation, and certainly deserve to have their appearance recorded. These are, the final publication of *Bryssot*, in which he unveils many of the iniquitous artifices of his own party, and of his adversaries; and the *Considerations on the French Revolution*, by M. *Mallet du*

* No. I. p. 68. + No. I. p. 71. † No. V. p. 539. ‡ No. II. p. 167. § No. IV. p. 406. ¶ No. VI. p. 686. ** No. V. p. 574. †† No. V. p. 551. ‡‡ No. IV. p. 450.

11 Poetry, B. 7, 754 Cr. HC, 3 Pan,
(Preface 1794), xiii - xiv.

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Pan, a writer who defended the liberty in France, much longer than it was safe to do so, and who fell exile from that country, continued to print in the castle of order, and was the chief propagator of means all the productions of merit, to which the present circumstances have given birth.

LAW.

The commencement of a new work by *William*, of the Inner Temple, intended to correct the *whole Law relative to the duty and office of a Justice of Peace*, was noticed in the first number of this volume. On a comparison of what there appeared, with the great work already existing on that subject, we saw some reason to prefer, and come to conclude this. We wait for the completion of the present before we attempt to regard a declared opponent of the reports of *Pierre Williams*, Esq. a book which we established estimation in the law, and which we may afford a measure to the practical lawyer, and which though first works are generally known, and in some the profession, it would be unjust to omit to mention. As far as our knowledge of the law extends, we unqualifiedly approve, and warmly recommend the authors and professors of the law, who have appeared.

We have but few specimens of the *White* to record. Those ladies continue to be very distinguished, and below their favour very pleasing. On the other hand, *Peter Pindar* has continued to have a share in his boisterous mode of conversation, and our young poets have displayed the promise of talents, which leaves us room to hope for something more

* No. V. p. 575. † No. I. p. 16. ‡ No. V. p. 551. § *Adagio*, No. II. p. 171 and 198. ¶ No. II. p. 192.

perfect

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perfect in their future efforts. Mr. Knight, with no small degree of felicity, in parts, at least, of his production, has formed a didactic poem on the subject of *landscaps* †: and Mr. Whitkynse has presented us with *odes* of considerable vigour ‡. The completion of Mr. Taffer's volumes gives to the public many approved compositions in a convenient form, with the accession of some that are new §. His works in general certainly deserve commendation, and such a patronage as might be useful, as well as honourable, to him. Having said this, we must, for the present, dismiss the topic of poetry.

ENGLISH CLASSICS REPUBLISHED, OR TRANSLATED.

Shakspeare, the inexhaustible resource of publishers has appeared under a new form by the care of Mrs. Rams ‖: who, printing the text correctly in a large octavo, has subjoined only such notes as tend to the necessary elucidation of the author, for common readers. The illustrations of this poet, in a volume of curious prints, deserve also to be recorded ¶. A selection has lately been produced from the works of our early poets **, which, as it renders accessible and purchasable, what was scattered before in volumes not easy to collect, and of some cost, must be acceptable to all who interest themselves in the history of British genius. Our incomparable epic poet has had a handsome tribute paid to his merit by Sign. *Merrillius*, whose commencement of his translation of the *Paradise Lost* †† evinces a great share of industry and, though not faultless, promises a work, which may be respected both in Italy and England.

* Mrs. Hemans No. II. p. 197, and Mr. Baskin No. V. p. 128. † No. IV. p. 382. ‡ No. VI. p. 654. § No. VI. p. 659. ¶ No. VI. p. 688. ** No. VI. p. 688. †† No. VI. p. 692. †† No. II. p. 172.

ANCIENT

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ANCIENT CLASSICS.

The London *Parthenon*, edition of the works of Horace, was too interesting a subject of enquiry for us to dismiss it lightly. After having examined it with peculiar care, we are enabled to pronounce that, as in beauty it is equal to any edition, so in correctness, and judicious selection of materials, it might have exceeded any thing that has hitherto appeared, had not the original copy of the edition been snatched away by a fate, which every friend to literature must long lament: or had not the former editor confided rather too implicitly in his own distinguished powers to carry on the work to its completion. With every defect that we have thought ourselves obliged to state, it is a publication that will do no little honour to the British press.

NOVELS.

As these productions thicken upon us, we have thought it necessary to give them a separate title, and have placed them after books of a poetical kind, to which, as works of invention, they are best allied. In this class we have seen already several productions worthy of notice. The review of the preceding will find ample room for all that is remarkable in the perusal of *Scimitar* of the *Countess*, by Mrs. Parsons †; of the *Wanderer*, by Mrs. G. ‡; the French of Mr. G. §; the *Prison*, by Mrs. H. ¶; *Henry*, an anonymous ††; *the French of Mr. G.* ‡‡; *the Prison*, by Mrs. H. §§; *Henry*, an anonymous †††; *the French of Mr. G.* ‡‡‡; *the Prison*, by Mrs. H. §§§; *Henry*, an anonymous ††††. We do not wish peculiarly to commend any of these, because we think, in the innocent species of reading, more ad vantageous

* No. I. p. 48. II. 121. III. 92. IV. 412. † No. II. p. 199. ‡ No. I. p. 78. § No. VI. p. 692. ¶ No. IV. p. 442. ** No. VI. p. 678. †† No. VI. p. 692. ††† No. VI. p. 692. †††† No. VI. p. 692.

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or deserves to live in any collection, or in any record, *Montgailard's* State of France in May, 1794, was noticed in our last volume; in the present we speak of his *State*, or Continuation of it*, written partly in answer to a pamphlet entitled *Rassurez vous*. Our account also of *McKenzie's Political Essays* was commenced in Vol. IV.†. It was concluded in this; and the result of the examination was, that though in some points we differed from the author, we bore testimony, on the whole, to the moderation of his spirit, and the justness of his views. *Mr. Bowler's two Treatises of Reflections*, submitted to the *Confederation of the combined Powers*, gave us, as usual, occasion to commend the patriotism and sagacity of the author; and are among the temporary productions which bid fair to live. *Mr. Young*, generally original in his views, and happy in an impressive manner of communicating them, gave us an excellent specimen of these powers in his *Idea of the present State of France*, though the state of France continues still to be so variable, that to follow it requires at least a new *Idea* every month. In daring to bring forward any thing like the doctrines of Sir Robert Filmer, *Mr. Whittaker* certainly exhibited a proof of courage; and his tract entitled *The real Origin of Government*‡, contains the striking marks of the vigour of his genius, and the boldness of his expressions. If the latter are candidly interpreted, we do not think they can be justly censured; and in his principle, if he goes no further than we represented, we certainly go with him. As an historical tract, complete with the most instructive information, we must not omit to recall to the attention of our readers, the *Short Account of the late Revolution in Geneva*, by *Mr. D'Ivernois*§; which displays in the completest manner the profligate selfishness of the French, in their wanton interference with other people, and gives an accurate picture of the part they would have played in

* No. I. p. 78. † P. 600. ‡ No. I. p. 29. § No. II. p. 97. ¶ No. II. p. 167. ¶ No. IV. p. 413. ¶ No. V. p. 545.

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every country in Europe, had the felt been as much within their power as the small republic of Geneva. Having mentioned this, we return to our subject. We ought longer to detain in the field of politics. We proceed therefore to the far more pleasing topic of

P O E T R Y.

One of our earliest claimants for celebrity in this department, was *Lady Burrell*, the first volume of whose poems was very justly commended in our second number*. Her ladyship now again comes forward, not only with a continuation of that set of poems, but with two new poems, of magnitude sufficient to be published separately. *The Tymbrides* and *Telamachus*†; the former taken from the Eucharist in the latter containing only the Epistle of Eucharist in the Island of Calypso. In considering these additional productions we found no occasion to retract a title of the praises we had given. *Mr. Topham* (a name much longer known in the regions of Poetry) ventured upon a new line of composition; and has given us, in his *Roman Portraits*‡, a collection of historical sketches, drawn with knowledge and with vigour, and if not sufficiently finished, in point of poetry, to have established a poetical fame, certainly set of a kind to taint his former laurels. For young readers, it will afford both study and amusement, of a very valuable nature. The completion of the modern *Review of Chaucer*, by *Mr. Lapscomb*§; uniting the whole in one publication, will gratify a considerable number of our readers: and *Mr. Jones's Relicks of the Welsh Bard*|| introduces other ancient poetry to notice in a very acceptable manner. The completion of the collection in a second volume, is of course an event to be desired. The *Poems of the late Mr. Michie*¶, translator of the *Lusad*, delivered undoubtedly to be collected

* Vol. I. p. 146. † No. II. p. 125. ‡ No. III. p. 244. § No. IV. p. 372. ¶ No. II. p. 107. ¶ No. VI. p. 635.

in a handsome volume, and will be fought by the lovers of poetry. These are the most considerable accessions lately made in this department. But of smaller publications, several have considerable merit. *Mr. Bowler's* republished *Sonnets**, with the addition of some original poems, form a volume which, though small, taste will not overlook. Nor will she fail to dwell on several single poems: such in particular as the animated *Elegy on Sir William Jones*†, written by *Mr. Maurice*, already mentioned as the author of the Indian Antiquities; *Mr. Smith's* poem, entitled the *Coffee House*‡, *Wrangham's* *Restoration of the Jews*§, and *Moore's* *Private Life*||. *Mr. Le Mercier's* Translations from *Parrich*, *Metcalf*, &c.¶ deserve also to be mentioned: and as a familiar representation of the incidents of a Campaign, the poetical *Sketch* of that in 1793 ††, will be read with satisfaction. Though written in a dead language, published in a foreign country, and not easy to be procured in any, *Lord Hampden's* splendid volume ††† contains too noble a tribute of patriotism, to the honour of Britain, and too strong proofs of learning and abilities to be passed in silence by the critic. A small but elegant edition, which might prove how well the types of Britain can rival those of Parma, would be a welcome present to the learned world. Our present volume contains nothing, in the dramatic line, poetical enough to be included under this article, or important enough to require a separate class. Several writers have forsaken the British Muses, to invoke literally those of Greece; or rather have chosen to dress the modern dames in the habits of antiquity. Our sentiments of these productions will be found at large in the places referred to in the margin §§.

* No. II. p. 173. † No. V. p. 510. ‡ No. IV. p. 422.
 § No. V. p. 537. || No. VI. p. 661. ¶ No. II. p. 144.
 †† No. VI. p. 641. ††† No. II. p. 187. §§ No. II. p. 134.
 III. p. 234. and VI. p. 625.

BRITISH

BRITISH POETS REPUBLISHED.

The magnificent edition of *Milton**, already alluded to under the article Biography, claims the foremost place in this enumeration: the first volume has given an earnest of such a publication as has not often been produced. On a much smaller scale, *Bulmer's* selection of Poems by *Goldsmith* and *Parnell*‡, contains as beautiful a specimen of typography as can be met with, and one not less extraordinary, of the art of engraving on wood. Some copies taken on vellum, and one on satin, are very highly curious. The *Collection of Scottish Songs*, by *Mr. Ritson*†, though the author has exposed himself to objections which we could not pass in silence, forms a good companion to his volumes of English Songs, and will be purchased by collectors in general.

EDITORS OF CLASSICAL.

The *Poetics of Aristotle*, published from the notes of *Mr. Tyrwhitt*§, were an object of great expectation to the learned world; and that the work when it appeared, was fully adequate to the hopes which had been formed, will be seen in the account we have given. The publication of the first untraced *Mss.* of *Herculanum* was also a matter for earnestly expected. That on the arrival of the volume containing the *Fourth Book of Philodemus on Mages*¶, we could not refrain from expatiating on it; and now transgress our usual rules by mentioning it again in this place, as an acquisition common to this country with the rest of Europe. On *Mr. Wakefield's* Edition of *Horace*§, we treated more at large than the number of his notes might seem to demand, because that editor is so particularly fond of

* No. VI. p. 569. † No. III. p. 279. ‡ No. V. p. 199.
 § No. I. p. 44. || No. VI. p. 682. ¶ No. I. p. 52. II. 145.
 and IV. 344.
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