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978-1-107-43268-0 - George Crabbe: Poems: Volume II  
Edited by Adolphus William Ward  
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***CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH CLASSICS***

Poems  
by  
George Crabbe

In Three Volumes

Cambridge University Press

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GEORGE CRABBE

Born, 1754

Died, 1832

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GEORGE CRABBE

POEMS

EDITED BY  
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## PREFACE.

THE poems contained in this volume, which comprise the whole of the *Tales* and the first eleven of the *Tales of the Hall*, are without exception printed from the edition of 1823, the last of Crabbe's works published in this country in his lifetime.

The *Variants* in the *Tales* are from the first edition (1812) and from the 'Original MS.' readings given as footnotes in the younger Crabbe's edition of his father's *Life and Poems* (1834). The *Variants* in the *Tales of the Hall* are from the first edition (1819); from the 'Original MS.' readings as above; from the Crabbe MSS. in the possession of the Cambridge University Press (which will be described in the Preface to Vol. III, where a much fuller use will be made of them), and from the MSS. in the valuable collection of Mrs Mackay of Trowbridge, most kindly lent by her for examination and use (to which the same remark applies). In the present volume will also be found certain *Addenda* to the *Variants* in Vol. I, from the 'Original MS.' readings printed by the younger Crabbe.

Among the *Errata* in this volume are included a considerable number of quotations from Shakespeare with wrong indications of acts or scenes, and occasionally even of the plays from which the passages are taken. A large proportion of the quotations are in themselves imperfect, or otherwise incorrect. Perhaps it is stretching

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## PREFACE

a point to treat all these defects as oversights ; sometimes Crabbe may have made intentional changes, and more frequently he may have been wilfully careless. No readings which he could have found in any current edition of Shakespeare have been altered.

In the preparation of the present volume, I have again enjoyed the advantage of the friendly aid and cooperation of Mr A. T. BARTHOLOMEW, to whom I am specially indebted for the compilation of the *Variants*. Our joint efforts have been occasionally defeated by the illegibility of passages in the Crabbe MSS. acquired by our University Press. It is hoped that the third and concluding volume of this edition, which will contain a considerable amount of previously unpublished verse, will appear in the course of the summer.

A. W. WARD.

PETERHOUSE LODGE, CAMBRIDGE.  
*March 19th, 1906.*

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