

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-43275-8 - Abraham Cowley: Poems: Miscellanies, the Mistress,
Pindarique Odes, Davideis, Verses Written on Several Occasions

The Text Edited by A. R. Waller

Frontmatter

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CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH CLASSICS

The English Writings
of
Abraham Cowley

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ABRAHAM COWLEY

Born 1618

Died 1667

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ABRAHAM COWLEY

POEMS

MISCELLANIES, THE MISTRESS,
PINDARIQUE ODES, DAVIDEIS,
VERSES WRITTEN ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS

THE TEXT EDITED BY
A. R. WALLER, M.A.



CAMBRIDGE :
at the University Press
1905

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NOTE.

THE text of this volume is that of the first collected edition of Cowley's works, a folio volume (11½ ins. × 7 ins.) published in 1668, the year after his death.

This folio contains 'An Account of the Life and Writings of M^r ABRAHAM COWLEY. Written to M^r M. CLIFFORD,' by Thomas Sprat (later, Dean of Westminster and Bishop of Rochester), following W. Faithorne's engraved portrait of Cowley and the title page (see p. vii), and preceding the Dedicatory Elegy and Cowley's Preface (see pp. 1, 4). The 'Account' states that 'Mr. Cowley in his Will recommended to my care the revising of all his Works that were formerly printed, and the collecting of those Papers which he had design'd for the Press. And he did it with this particular Obligation, *That I should be sure to let nothing pass, that might seem the least offence to Religion or good Manners....* According to his desire and his own intention, I have now set forth his Latin and English Writings, each in a Volume apart; and to that which was before extant in both Languages, I have added all that I could find in his Closet, which he had brought to any manner of perfection.'

The present volume contains the 'four parts' which had constituted the earlier folio of 1656, referred to in Cowley's Preface (p. 9). It also contains the 'Verses written on several occasions,' published by Cowley in 1663, after an unauthorised edition had been printed in Dublin. A few verse translations,

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which had appeared in the 1663 volume, were incorporated in the 1668 folio in 'Several Discourses by way of Essays in Verse and Prose' and will be included in the companion volume mentioned below.

At the end of this book will be found the variations noted in a collation of the 1668 text with the folio of 1656, the volume of 1663, and the edition of 'The Mistress' which had appeared in 1647.

The course adopted in the case of misprints is the same as that followed in the other texts in this series; square brackets in the poems indicate where errors have been noticed, and these are explained in the Notes: but a conservative attitude has been deliberately adopted in deciding what are, and what are not, misprints, both in spelling and in punctuation. A few accents only, italic for roman signs, etc., have been silently altered.

A companion volume to the present is in the press. It will contain the miscellaneous prose contents of the 1668 folio, including the 'Several Discourses by way of Essays in Verse and Prose,' Cowley's juvenile writings, not collected by him, and his English plays. The two volumes will thus contain the whole of Cowley's English writings: it is not intended to reprint his Latin works in this edition.

A. R. WALLER.

CAMBRIDGE,

1 June, 1905.

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THE
WORKS
OF
M^r Abraham Cowley.

Consisting of

Those which were formerly Printed:

AND

Those which he Design'd for the Press,

Now Published out of the Authors

ORIGINAL COPIES.

LONDON,

Printed by J. M. for Henry Herringman, at the Sign of the
Blew Anchor in the Lower Walk of the New
Exchange, 1668.