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978-1-107-48738-3 - The History & Sources of Percy's Memoir of Goldsmith

Katharine C. Balderston

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THE HISTORY & SOURCES
OF PERCY'S
MEMOIR OF GOLDSMITH

By

KATHARINE C. BALDERSTON, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of English Literature

in Wellesley College

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PREFACE

The following study of Bishop Percy's biography of Goldsmith attempts only to trace its obscure genesis, and to point out the exact sources from which it was drawn. I hope, however, that my analysis may help to prepare the way for a new biography of the poet, by facilitating a revaluation of the contemporary sources of information. Of the need for a new biography, no student can doubt who has attempted to unravel the baffling web of fact and myth which his standard biographies present.

This study originally formed part of a dissertation presented to the faculty of Yale University for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. My warmest thanks are due to Professor C. B. Tinker for directing me to the subject, and for his continuous and invaluable help. I gratefully acknowledge the generosity of Miss Constance Meade in permitting me to examine her unique collection, as well as the kindness of Mr W. M. Elkins, Mr Harold Murdock, and Mr R. B. Adam, in allowing me to use unpublished correspondence in their collections. Dr Paget Toynbee and Professor G. C. Moore Smith have likewise given me indispensable aid.

K. C. B.

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