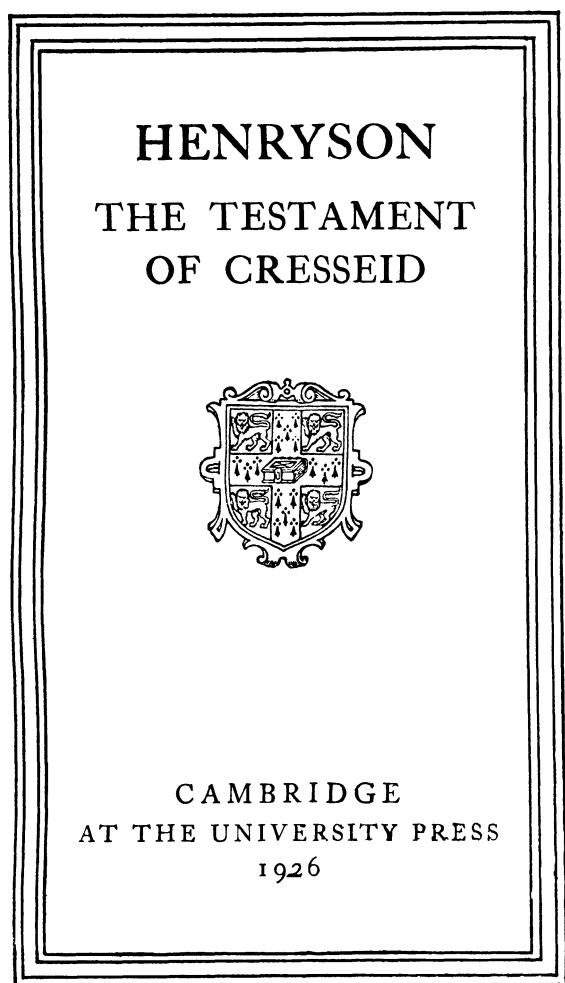


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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town,
Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi, Mexico City

Cambridge University Press
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107636262

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First published 1926
Re-issued 2013

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-1-107-63626-2 Paperback

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NOTE

The following Note is taken from Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch's *Studies in Literature, Second Series*:

“ROBERT HENRYSON [c. 1425–c. 1500] was a schoolmaster, of the Benedictine Abbey-school at Dunfermline, the precincts of which gave him the text for his poem—*The Abbey Walk*. He is a sworn Chaucerian. He toasts his feet by the fire on a winter's night, takes ‘ane drink’ to hearten him, and falls to reading, for still further comfort, Chaucer's *Troilus*:

I mend the fyre, and beikit me about,
 Than tuik ane drink my spreitis to comfort,
 And armit me weill fra the cauld thairout;
 To cut the winter nicht, and mak it schort,
 I tuik ane Quair [book], and left all uther sport,
 Writtin be worthie Chaucer glorious,
 Of fair Cresseid and lustie Troylus.

But having finished the tale, the good man, puzzled by Chaucer's letting the wanton Cresseid off so lightly, is moved to take pen and add a canto, punishing the wretch, and yet with a fierce kind of pity. In *The Testament of Cresseid*, she is first cast off by Diomedes, for whom she had abandoned Troilus so heartlessly: she becomes a poor common drab and returns to her father Calchas, priest of Venus, but is ashamed to go ‘into the kirk.’ In a dream she hears herself con-

demned by Saturn to be smitten with disease and drag out her days in misery. She awakes, looks in her glass, and finds she is a leper. She creeps to the lazar-house, and lives and begs with the lepers. On a day Troilus rides past with his gallant company, and the lepers ask alms, Cresseid among them.

Than upon him scho kest up baith her ene,
 And with ane blenk it come in to his thoct,
 That he sum tyme hir face befoir had sene,
 Bot scho was in sic plye he knew hir nocht.

For that look, that hint, 'of fair Cresseid, sumtyme his awin darling' he throws rich alms and passes on—

And nevertheles not ane ane uther knew.

But while the other lepers wonder at the rich gift thrown to 'yone lazarous,' one of them tells that his friend is none other than Prince Troilus. Cresseid, heartbroken, makes her lament and her testament, and dies: and from her corpse a leper takes and carries to Troilus the ring with the red ruby that he had given her aforetime: and Troilus cries from a bursting heart:

'I can no moir;
 Scho was untrew, and wo is me thairfoir!
 Sum said he maid ane tomb of merbell gray,
 And wrait hir name and superscriptioun,
 And laid it on hir grave, quhair that scho lay,
 In goldin letteris, containing this ressoun:
 'Lo, fair ladyis, Cresseid of Troyis toun,
 Sumtyme countit the flour of womanheid,
 Under this stane, late lipper, lyis deid!'

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NOTE

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—a noble, passionate poem, and (I dare to say) touched with the true fire of the masterpiece for which it was written as sequel.”

The text is that of David Laing’s edition (1865) with the addition of some glossarial footnotes.

A. ATTWATER.

February, 1926