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978-1-108-01133-4 - The Verses Formerly Inscribed on Twelve Windows in the Choir of Canterbury Cathedral

Montague Rhodes James and Emily Williams

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The Verses Formerly Inscribed on Twelve Windows in the Choir of Canterbury Cathedral

M.R. James (1862–1936) is probably best remembered as a writer of chilling ghost stories, but he was an outstanding scholar of medieval literature and palaeography, who served both as Provost of King's College, Cambridge, and as Director of the Fitzwilliam Museum. His short book from 1901 on the texts inscribed in the famous stained-glass windows of Canterbury Cathedral is paired here with an anonymous guide to the windows published in 1897. Its author is believed to have been Emily Williams, whose aim was 'to give some account of the changes which have taken place in the arrangement of the old painted glass' during the major restoration which was taking place throughout the nineteenth century. The preface is by Dean Farrar, the author of the popular morality tale for children, *Eric, or Little by Little*, and all proceeds were to go to the Cathedral Restoration Fund.

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*Together with Notes on the Painted Glass
of Canterbury Cathedral*

MONTAGUE RHODES JAMES
EMILY WILLIAMS



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THE VERSES FORMERLY INSCRIBED ON
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REPRINTED, FROM THE MANUSCRIPT, WITH
INTRODUCTION AND NOTES

BY

MONTAGUE RHODES JAMES, Litt.D..

FELLOW AND TUTOR OF KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

DIRECTOR OF THE FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM.

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PREFATORY NOTE.

I HOPE to follow up the present tract by editions of other iconographical texts of less meagre proportions. Foremost among these I contemplate issuing the text of the book called *Pictor in Carmine*, to which many allusions are made in the accompanying pages. I will here subjoin a list of the manuscripts of this work which are at present known to me, partly for the convenience of students, and partly in the hope that other copies may be recognised. The first words of the table of subjects are: “Colloquium Gabrielis et Virginis.” The Prologue begins: “Dolens in sanctuario dei.” I shall be very grateful for any additions to my list of authorities.

1. Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, no. 217. An incomplete text from Worcester.

2. *Ibid.*, no. 300. A fine manuscript, which contains only *Pictor*. I have a complete transcript of it.

3. Bodl. Rawlinson A. 425. Containing only *Pictor*. Imperfect at the end.

4. Bodl. Digby 65, ff. 79—102.

5. Durham, Bp. Cosin's Library V. II. 5.

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6. Phillipps, 11059. Sir Thomas Phillipps printed the Prologue from this MS. in one of his Catalogues, and M. Delisle has reprinted it in *Mélanges de Paléographie*, etc., p. 205.

Two other remarks may be made in this place. Firstly, the term “Theological,” as applied to windows containing pictures of types and antitypes, is borrowed ultimately, I believe, from the works of MM. Cahier and Martin. I derive it directly from Mr Westlake’s *History of Design in Painted Glass*. Secondly, the punctuation of the verses printed in the tract is that supplied by the manuscript; I do not wish any readers to hold me responsible for it. They must punctuate for themselves if they desire to get any sense out of the lines.

M. R. J.