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978-1-108-07725-5 - Reliques of Ancient English Poetry: Consisting of Old Heroic Ballads, Songs, and Other Pieces of Our Earlier Poets: Volume 2

Edited by Thomas Percy

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Reliques of Ancient English Poetry

While visiting a friend, the writer and cleric Thomas Percy (1729–1811) noticed a neglected folio whose pages were being used by the maids to light the fire. Upon inspection, this manuscript was found to be a seventeenth-century collection of historical ballads. Following this discovery, Percy collected further ballads and songs from a number of sources, which he published in this three-volume work in 1765, although ultimately only a quarter of the texts he presented came from that original manuscript. Although this work proved to be incredibly popular, Percy's idiosyncratic editorial practices also received much criticism. The collection centres on historical ballads and romances, demonstrating the development of language, customs and traditions, to which Percy added contemporary ballads for his readers' enjoyment. Volume 2 includes a rondel which Percy ascribes to Chaucer, as well as verses purported to be by Queen Elizabeth I and King Charles I.

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VOLUME 2

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O F
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CONSISTING OF
Old Heroic BALLADS, SONGS, and other
PIECES of our earlier POETS,
(Chiefly of the LYRIC kind.)
Together with some few of later Date.
VOLUME THE SECOND.



L O N D O N:
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see by them how the wind fits: As take a straw and
throw it up into the air, you may see by that, which
way the wind is, which you shall not do by casting up
a stone. More solid things do not shew the complexion
of the times so well as BALLADS and Libels.

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FINIS