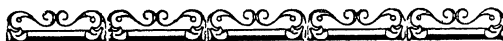




A
COLLECTION
OF OLD
BALLADS, &c.





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COLLECTION OF OLD BALLADS.

Corrected from the best and most
Ancient COPIES Extant.

WITH
INTRODUCTIONS

HISTORICAL, CRITICAL,

or HUMOROUS.

Collected by Ambrose Philips.

Illustrated with COPPER PLATES.

*Let no nice Sir despise the hapless Dame,
Because Recording BALLADS chaunt her Name.
Those Venerable Ancient Song-Enditers
Soar'd many a Pitch above our modern Writers.
With rough Majestick Force they mov'd the Heart,
And Strength and Nature make amends for Art.*

Rowe.

L O N D O N :

Printed for J. Roberts ; and sold by J. Brotherton in
Cornhill ; A. Bettesworth in Pater-Noster-Row ;
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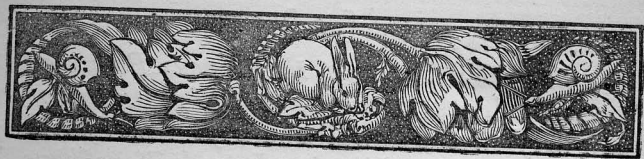


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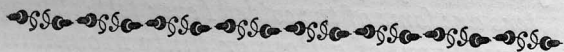
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A
COLLECTION
OF OLD
BALLADS.



I. The *Unfortunate Concubine*; or,
Rosamond's Overthrow.

Occasion'd by her Brother's unadvisedly praising
her Beauty to Two young Knights of *Salisbury*,
as they rid on the Road.

To the Tune of *The Court Lady.*

Rosamond, the Daughter of Walter Lord
Clifford, was, as the Writers of that Age
assure us, a young Lady of infinite Beauty;
on the bare Report of which, King Henry
the Second fell in Love with her, and having
de-

ing out the Beauties of his Book, and begging the courteous Reader not to damn it: Tho' probably the poor Writer does not know where to find out these Beauties, or has not the least Reason to expect, but what his Book will be damn'd.

The fulsome Praises which a Modern Author is often obliged to bestow in a Dedication, must certainly be very grating to a generous Soul; but then the Hopes of being well paid for his Pains, is some Ease to his Conscience: But to court and flatter every Reader — and not have a Farthing the more for one's Trouble — is hard, is unconsionable.

As for my Part, I have not been accustomed to servile Fawning, and begging the Question; and am fully determin'd not to begin now. I would always put my self upon the Level with a Reader, and think my self under no manner of Obligation: I have his Money, and he has my Works; and I am sure he may keep the one in his Study, much longer than I shall the other in my Pocket. If there

there be any Beauties in the Book, 'tis certainly his Business to find them out; and if there ben't — why, he can't say I cheated him: I never pretended to give him any thing more than an old Song.

But as the greatest Part of this Book is not my own, and several things in it written Ages ago, I may, I hope, without either Vanity or Offence enter upon the Praises of Ballads, and shew their Antiquity.

I would not be thought to ridicule any thing in Sacred Writ, and therefore I will pass over in Silence, what I might say of the Times of Moses, Jephthah and David, and go directly amongst the Pagans. And here the very Prince of Poets, old Homer, if we may trust ancient Records, was nothing more than a blind Ballad-finger, who writ Songs of the Siege of Troy, and the Adventures of Ulysses; and playing the Tunes upon his Harp, sung from Door to Door, till at his Death somebody thought fit to collect all his Ballads, and by a little connecting

*necting 'em, gave us the Iliad and Odyf-
 ses, which since that Time have been so
 much admired. And in those very Days,
 if we may trust the succeeding Poets, no
 Entertainment was thought compleat,
 unless whilst the Company was carouzing,
 there was a Harper in the Room singing
 old Songs ; at least written upon old Sub-
 jects. Thus we find Virgil in the Ac-
 count he gives of Dido's treating Æ-
 neas.*

—————Citharâ crinitus fopas
 Personat auratâ, docuit quæ maximus Atlas
 Hic canit.

*And this the Archbishop of Cambray has
 imitated, when he makes Calypso entertain
 Telemachus and Mentor in the Grotto.
 His Words are these.*

“ At the same time were brought in
 “ Baskets, all sorts of Fruits promised
 “ by the Spring, and ripened by the
 “ Autumn. And then Four youthful
 “ Nymphs began to sing. At first
 “ they sung, *the Combat of the Gods*
 “ *against*

“ *against the Giants; then the Amours*
 “ *of Jupiter and Semele; the Birth of*
 “ *Bacchus, and old Silenus’s Care in*
 “ *educating him; Hippomenes and*
 “ *Atalanta’s Race; She who was van-*
 “ *quish’d by the enticing Hue of Ap-*
 “ *ples from the Hesperian Garden cull’d.*
 “ *And last the Trojan War was also*
 “ *fung; Ulysses’s Fights and Counsels*
 “ *rais’d to Heaven: The chief of all*
 “ *the Nymphs, Leucothoe, to those*
 “ *melodious Voices join’d the sweet-*
 “ *ness of her Lute.*

*It would be endless, to prove that the
 several Poets whose Bustos I have put
 in my Frontispiece, were Ballad-Writers:
 For what else can we make of Pindar’s
 Lyrics? Anacreon would never sit down
 contented without his Bottle and his
 Song. Horace could drop the Praises of
 Augustus and Mæcenæ, to sing the Adven-
 tures of his Journey to Brundisium, and
 the* Baulk he met with from a Servant*

* Book I. Satyr 5.

Wench in a Country Alehouse; and this Song of his it was, which gave Occasion to a modern Ballad amongst us, called, The Coy Cook-maid. Cowley has left too many Works of this Kind to need quoting; and Suckling's Wedding will never be forgot.

The Ballad-Makers are a more ancient, more numerous, and more noble Society than the boasted Free-Masons; and Duke upon Duke will witness, that People of Considerable Fashion have thought it no Disgrace to enroll themselves in this Worshipful Society.

Nor have these antique Songs ever been without their Admirers. When Thebes was sack'd, Pindar was spar'd for the Sake of his Works; and Alexander wept, to think his Age did not afford so clever a Ballad finger as Homer had been, to record his Actions to Posterity.

*It was the Custom of these Song Enditers thus to transmit to their Children the glorious Actions which happen'd in
their*

their Days. And I believe it never was used more than amongst the English in Times of old. For we may very reasonably suppose, that one half at least of their Works are lost; and we have still one half of whatever is remarkable in History, handed down to us in Ballads.

*The Use of these Songs too is very great. I have known Children, who never would have learn'd to read, had they not took a Delight in poring over Jane Shore, or Fair Rosamond; and several fine Historians are indebted to Historical Ballads for all their Learning. For had not Curiosity, and a Desire of comparing these Poetical Works with ancient Records, first incited them to it, they never would have given themselves the Trouble of diving into History: And in this I have endeavoured to make our old Songs still more useful, by the Introductions which I have prefix'd to 'em; and in which is pointed out what is Fact and what Fiction. Should my Design succeed, a Second Collection, and in which there are several Songs more antique than
the*

the Generality of these, will soon make its Appearance; if not, I'll sit down contented with my present Loss, and, like several of my Grubstreet Brethren, rail at the ignorant World, and resolve to write no more for its Instruction.





A
T A B L E
O F
B A L L A D S

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