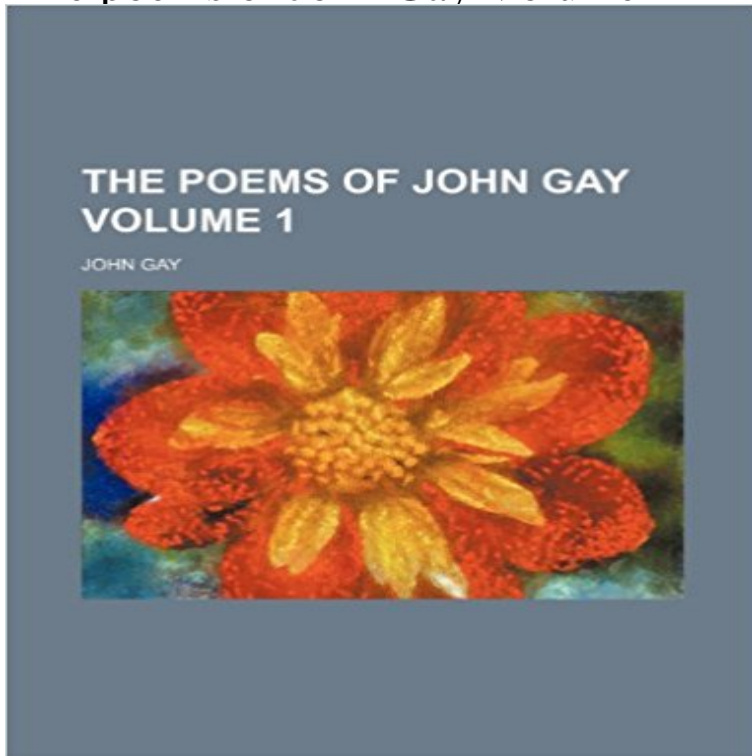


The poems of John Gay Volume 1



This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1822 edition. Excerpt: ... He thrives upon the public ruin. Antiochus, with hardy pace, Provoked the dangers of the chase; And, lost from all his menial train, Traversed the wood and pathless plain. A cottage lodged the royal guest; The Parthian clown brought forth his best. The king unknown his feast enjoyd, And various chat the hours employd. From wine what sudden friendship springs! Frankly they talkd of courts and kings. We country-folks (the clown replies) Could ope our gracious monarchs eyes. The king, (as all our neighbours say) Might he (God bless him!) have his way, Is sound at heart, and means our good, And he would do it if he could. 1 Plutarch. If truth in courts were not forbid, Nor kings nor subjects would be rid. Were he in power, we need not doubt him; But that transferd to those about him, On them he throws the regal cares; And what mind they? Their own affairs. If such rapacious hands he trust, The best of men may seem unjust. From kings to cobblers tis the same; Bad servants wound their masters fame. In this our neighbours all agree: Would the king knew as much as we!--Here he stoppd short. Repose they sought; The peasant slept, the monarch thought. The courtiers learnd, at early dawn, Where their lost sovereign was withdrawn. The guards approach our host alarms; With gaudy coats the cottage swarms. The crown and purple robes they bring, And prostrate fall before the king. The clown was calld; the royal guest By due reward his thanks expressd. The king then, turning to the crowd, Who fawningly before him bowd, Thus spoke: Since, bent on private gain, Your counsels first misled my reign, Taught and informd by you alone, No truth the royal ear hath known,

Till here conversing: hence, ye crew, For
now I know myself and you. Whener...

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