

**POETICAL
WORKS, VOL. V**

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Poetical works, Vol. V by Geoffrey Chaucer & Robert Bell

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GEOFFREY CHAUCER & ROBERT BELL

**POETICAL
WORKS, VOL. V**



Goldwin Smith.

POETICAL WORKS

OF

GEOFFREY CHAUCER

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POETICAL WORKS
OF
GEOFFREY CHAUCER

EDITED WITH A MEMOIR
BY
ROBERT BELL

VOLUME V.

111526

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POEMS
OF
GEOFFREY CHAUCER.

TROYLUS AND CRYSEYDE.

[THAT this was one of Chaucer's early poems appears to be established by several circumstances; although neither the age at which it was written, nor the place to which it should be assigned in the chronology of his works, can be determined. There is no doubt that it was antecedent to *The Canterbury Tales*, which, at whatever period they may have been commenced, occupied the close of Chaucer's life. It certainly preceded *The Legends of Gods Women*, which is represented in the Prologue as having been designed to make amends for the unfavourable picture of the frailties of the sex drawn in the character of Cryseyde. Chaucer himself seems to indicate that it was one of the earliest of his productions, by mentioning it first in the list of those pieces which he tells us he had revoked in his 'retracciouns,' alluded to in the address to the reader at the end of *The Persones Tale*, vol. iv. p. 106; and Lydgate, enumerating Chaucer's works, expressly refers *Troilus and Cryseyde* to his youth. If the conjectures suggested by the internal evidence were of any weight against this testimony, we might be justified in assuming that the poem could hardly have been the production of a very young writer. The tone of the lines inscribed to the 'moral Gower,' and the 'philosophical Strode,' is that of an author who had already acquired the right to pronounce judgments and confer reputations; and the poem itself displays a knowledge of human nature, an amount of learning, and a command of