THE SONNETS OF JOHN MILTON

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The Sonnets of John Milton by John Milton & Mark Pattison

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JOHN MILTON & MARK PATTISON

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Edited by MARK PATTISON



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INTRODUCTION.

THE Sonnet — both thing and name —comes to us from the Italian. It. 'sonetto' is the diminutive of 'suono'= sound. In early Italian 'sonare'='to ' play upon an instrument,' as Boccaccio, Nov. 97, 'Avviso che la Lisa volesse ' per udirlo alquanto e sonare e cantare.' Ballata, sonetto, canzone, were originally distinguished thus : canzone = words merely sung ; sonetto = words with instrumental accompaniment ; ballata = words accompanied with dancing. But already in Dante's time the three terms had come to denote only three different forms of poem. 'Qui-

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