

THE ALDINE EDITION
OF THE BRITISH
POETS



THE POETICAL WORKS OF WILLIAM COWPER

VOLUME I



H. Robinson sc.

Wm Cowper.

THE POETICAL WORKS OF
WILLIAM COWPER

EDITED WITH A MEMOIR
BY JOHN BRUCE, F.S.A.



VOLUME I

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THE present work is substantially a reprint of the "Aldine Edition of the Poetical Works of Cowper," edited by the late SIR HARRIS NICOLAS. Without designing to put forth, in any sense, a critical edition of the works of this admirable Poet, the Editor has taken pains on two points; the one, to approach to a settlement of the text by a collation of all doubtful passages with the editions published in Cowper's life-time, and with the chief of those which have appeared more recently; the other point has been to add brief illustrative notes on passages which contain allusions to persons or circumstances, which have faded out of general knowledge.

A new Memoir of the Poet has also been prefixed. Sir H. Nicolas's memoir was pronounced by Southey to be "the most judicious," as the Aldine edition was declared to be "the best arranged," that had then appeared. But our knowledge of facts relating to Cowper is cumulative. It has