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OBERON'S VISION

IN THE

MIDSUMMER-NIGHT'S DREAM,

ILLUSTRATED

BY A COMPARISON WITH

LYLIE'S ENDYMION.

BY THE REV. N. J. HALPIN.

. . . . in longum tamen ævum
Manserunt, hodiéque manent, vestigia ruris.

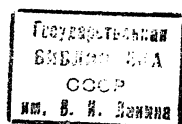


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P R E F A C E.

My attention was called to the subject discussed in the following essay, by a *critique* in the *Times* * (June 12, 1841), in which, lamenting that no commentator on Shakespeare, since Warburton, had attempted to elucidate “the famous passage of the Mermaid on a Dolphin’s back,” the writer proceeds to observe: “yet those who are impressed with the singular beauty of the passage (and who are not?) would have been glad to have received at his hands some contribution, however slight, or at least to have seen the result of his own consideration of the conflicting arguments of Warburton and Ritson, and of the other commentators, not forgetting Mr. Boaden, who has written ingeniously and learnedly on the passage.”

A challenge from a quarter so popular as the *Times* seemed to me to indicate a demand more extensive than that of the individual critic; and, my occasional studies having previously led me to a careful investigation of the subject, I thought I could not do better than add “my contribution, however slight,” towards the elucidation of

* On Mr. Halliwell’s ingenious Essay on the Midsummer Night’s Dream.