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LIFE,  
LETTERS AND ESSAYS  
OF

Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

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VOL. II.

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ESSAYS

ON THE

ENGLISH POETS

AND THE

GREEK CHRISTIAN POETS

BY

ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING

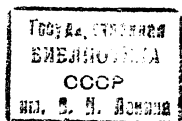
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NEW YORK

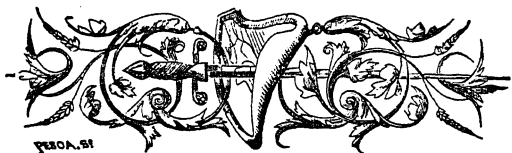
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## THE BOOK OF THE POETS.

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THE voice of the turtle is heard in the land. The green book of the earth is open, and the four winds are turning the leaves: while Nature, chief secretary to the creative Word, sits busy at her inditing of many a lovely poem,—her “Flower and the Leaf” on this side, her “Cuckoo and the Nightingale” on that, her “Paradise of Dainty Devices” in and out among the valleys, her “Polyolbion” away across the hills, her “Britannia’s Pastorals” on the home meadows, her sonnets of tufted primroses, her lyrical outgushings of May blossoming, her epical and didactic solemnities of light and shadow, and many an illustrative picture to garnish the universal annual. What book shall we open side by side with Nature’s? First, the book of God. “The Book of the Poets” may well come