commended it as “ conditissimum carmen.” It however contains one very unhappy pentameter :

Utque tuus rursum corpore sim posito.

The editor has inserted four inscriptions written by him­self, numbers 41, 44, 45, and 47, which he pretends were transmitted to him from Italy by a learned friend. This was evidently a mode of ascertaining his own proficiency as an imitator of ancient simplicity and elegance ; but whether such a device is altogether excusable, may per­haps admit of some doubt.

To Dr Johnson’s Idler he contributed three papers, Nos. 33, 93, and 96 ; but Dr Mant has erroneously stated that he was likewise a contributor to the Connoisseur, published by Colman and Thornton. In 1760 he printed two little works without his name. One of them is “ A Description of the City, College, and Cathedral of Winchester.” The other is entitled “ A Companion to the Guide, and a Guide to the Companion ; being a complete Supplement to all the Accounts of Oxford hitherto published.” This face­tious production speedily reached a third edition, and it was again printed at Oxford in 1806. He afterwards pub­lished “ The Life and Literary Remains of Ralph Bathurst, Μ. D. Dean of Wells, and President of Trinity College in Oxford.” Lond. 1761, 8vo. This volume, though chiefly in­teresting to the members of his own college, is not without its attractions to those who delight in the history of lite­rature and its professors.

Reverting to his classical pursuits, he prepared for the press “ Anthologiæ Græcæ, a Constantino Cephala con­ditae, libri tres, ad editionem Lipsiensem Joannis Jacobi Reiske expressi. Accedunt interpretatio Latina, poetarum anthologicorum notitia, indices necessarii.” Oxon. 1766, 8vo. Warton has contributed an elegant preface, together with some brief annotations. The Latin version, the elabo­rate account of the poets, and the six indices, are reprinted from Reiske’s edition. After an interval of four years, he published a more elaborate work : “ Theocriti Syracusii quæ supersunt, cum scholiis Græcis auctioribus, emendationibus et animadversionibus in scholia editoris et Joannis Toupii, glossis selectis ineditis,” &c. Oxon. 1770, 2 tom. 4to. This edition is elegantly and correctly printed ; and, in a letter to the editor, Toup described it as “ the best publication that ever came from the Clarendon press.” In compli­ance with the recommendation of the delegates, it was printed without accents, although Dr Foster, eight years before, had made a solemn remonstrance against a practice so heretical.@@1 The scholia are not conveniently disposed for the purpose of reference ; and in the opinion of Harles as well as Brunck, the editor has not to the full extent availed himself of all the valuable materials that were within his reach. But an edition of a Greek poet by a scholar so accomplished, and possessing so much elegance of taste, is not very frequently recorded in the annals of classical liter­ature.

On the 7th of December 1767, he had taken the degree of B. D. ; and on the 22d of October 1771, he was instituted to the small living of Kiddington in Oxfordshire, on the presentation of the earl of Lichfield, then chancellor of the university. From April 1755 to April 1774, he served the curacy of Woodstock, except during the long vacation. His pulpit oratory does not appear to have had any peculiar recommendation ; but it was stated by an anonymous writer in 1803, that many were still alive who spoke of him with more regard and affection than of any other person who ever officiated at Woodstock. He likewise augmented his income by taking pupils ; and Mr North, afterwards earl of Guildford, was placed under his care in 1774.

His situation in the university led to his next literary undertaking, “ The Life of Sir Thomas Pope, Founder of Trinity College, Oxford; chiefly compiled from original evi­dences. With an Appendix of Papers never before printed.” Lond. 1772, 8vo. This work, of which the original sketch was inserted in the Biographie Britannica, was reprinted in the year 1780. It extends to an ample volume, and is written with his usual elegance. The author’s model is Bishop Lowth’s Life of William of Wykeham; and both works afford very favourable examples of this species of biography, in which the details of the antiquary are render­ed graceful by the taste of the scholar.

This was followed by a more important publication, namely, the first volume of “ The History of English Poetry, from the close of the eleventh to the commence­ment of the eighteenth century. To which are prefixed two Dissertations: 1. On the Origin of Romantic Fiction in Europe : 2. On the Introduction of Learning into Eng­land.” Lond. 1774, 4to. A second edition of this volume was speedily required. The second volume was published in 1778, and the third in 1781. To this last he prefixed “ A Dissertation on the Gesta Romanorum.” The impres­sion of the work extended to 1250 copies ; and the copy-right is said to have been purchased for three hundred and fifty pounds. He did not live to complete the plan which his title announces ; for he only descended to the reign of Elizabeth. Although he survived the publication of the third volume for nine years, he had only printed eleven sheets of the fourth ; nor does he appear to have left any additional portion of it in a state of preparation. At the end of an edition of his Poems, published in 1791, we find this announcement : “ Speedily will be published, by the same author, the fourth and last volume of the History of English Poetry ; in which the subject will [be] carried down to the commencement of the present century.” It was the intention of Dr Warton to complete his brother’s great work ; but there is no evidence of his having made any progress in such an undertaking.

The History of English Poetry experienced a very fa­vourable reception, and greatly contributed to extend the reputation of the author. With very extensive and varie­gated research Warton combines much knowledge of an­cient and modern literature ; and he enlivens the most unpromising disquisitions with many flowers of an active fancy and a refined taste. The book is written in an ex­cellent English style, generally elegant and often graceful, never descending too low or rising too high. With these impressions of his great and conspicuous merit, we hold it to be impossible to acquiesce in the averment, that “ his history has been found so dry and oppressive as to subdue the eagerness of the generality of readers.” Such readers must certainly be in a very inadequate state of preparation. Soon after the appearance of his third volume, he was as­sailed in an anonymous pamphlet, entitled “ Observations on the three first volumes of the History of English Poetry, in a familiar Letter to the Author.” Lond. 1782, 4to. This familiar letter was the production of Ritson, and is plenti­fully furnished with his inexhaustible virulence. Warton, like every other man who has published a work in three vo­lumes, has exhibited errors and mistakes ; but those which his rabid censor has detected are neither so numerous nor so important as to warrant any great severity of reprehension. In spite of such critics as these, the work has steadily main­tained as much popularity as could reasonably have been anticipated. A valuable edition, “ carefully revised, with numerous additional notes by the late Mr Ritson, the late Dr [Mr] Ashby, Mr Douce, Mr Park, and other eminent antiquaries, and by the editor,” was published by the late

@@@\* Foster’s Essay on the different Nature of Accent and Quantity, p. 226. Eton, 17S2, 8vo.