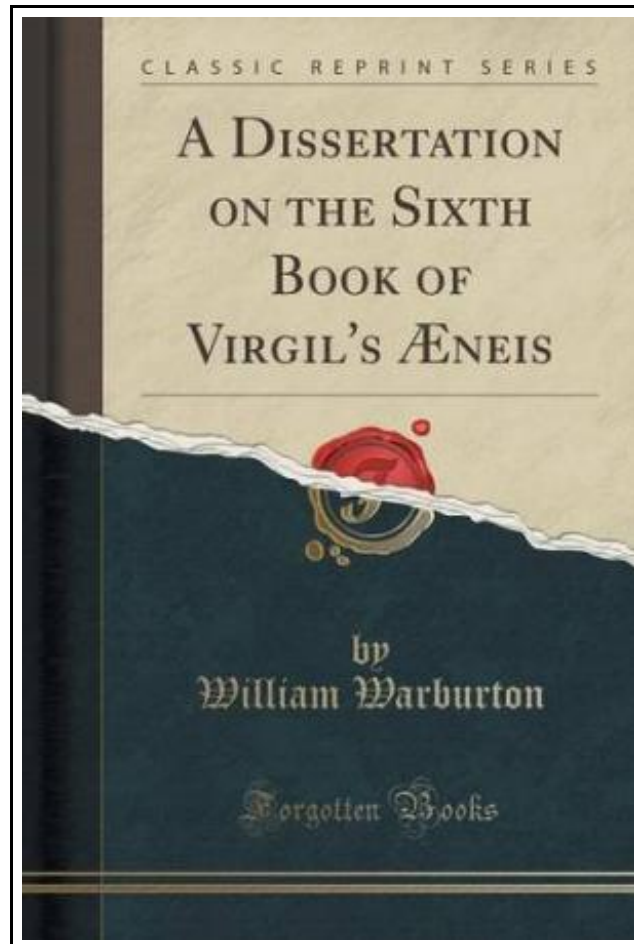


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from *A Dissertation on the Sixth Book of Virgil s Aeneis* Virgil found the epic poem in the first rank of human compositions; but this was too narrow a foundation for his enlarged ambition: He was not content that its subject should be to instruct the world in morals, much less did he think of physics, though he was fond of natural enquiries, and Homer s allegories had opened a back-door to let in the philosopher with the poet; but he aspired to make it a system of politics. On this plan he wrote the *Aeneis*; which is indeed as perfectly such, in verse, by example, as the *Republics* of Plato and Tully were in prose, by precept. Thus he added a new province to epic poesy. But though every one saw that Augustus was shadowed in the person of Aeneas, yet it being supposed that those political instructions, which the poet designed for the service of mankind, were for the sole use of his master, they missed of the true nature of the poem. And in this ignorance, the succeeding epic writers, following a poem whose genius they did not understand, wrote worse than if they had only taken Homer, and his simpler plan, for their direction. A great modern poet, and best judge of their merit, assures us of this fact; and what hath been said will help us to explain the reason of it; The epic poets, says this admirable writer, have used the same practice (that of Virgil, of running two fables into one) but generally carried it so far as to superinduce a multiplicity of fables, destroy the unity of action,...



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