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INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

In deciding to commit the within collection to *covers*, so far was it from my original intention to present myself as an aspirant for public favor, that I had allowed this Note, as first drafted, to be printed off *in form*, with the statement that I did "not appear in the role of a candidate for public patronage;" explaining therein that I had caused my poems to be placed in this form, as a "matter of gratification to those of my friends, who had 'solicited' me so to do,"—and to myself.

Having determined to appear for judgment, may I here have leave to state, as a consideration to be borne in mind by those into whose hands this little volume may fall, that its contents are the production of the spare hours which have remained to me, from day to day, *after business duties*, for under these most unfavorable circumstances have they, indeed, *all* been written.

While, as has been said, * "a book, to the reader, be not worse or better for the circumstances under which its author has produced it," I would humbly submit, to continue to quote the same learned Writer, that "to rightly estimate any man's performance, it must be compared with his own particular opportunities, * * * to know how much is to be ascribed to native ability and how much to adventitious help." It is in this latter view, that I presume to advance the above palliative; and I cannot but feel that it is only necessary for me to plead a disad-

* Dr. Johnson.