

have the opinions their language conveys been regarded. When party heats run high, party judgments are of little worth. "Wit and fool," says Dryden, are consequents of Whig and Tory; and every man is a knave or an ass to the contrary side. This arrangement indeed falls more severely on the authors themselves than upon any others: for it cannot be denied that their productions, as here given, are of very unequal merit and comprise much that, in all probability, they themselves would on occasion have excluded. But the fault rests here with that Chance which, being no respecter of merit, has preserved indifferently a meagre assortment, in point of quantity, of the numerous writings of our poets, and in so doing has condemned their best and their worst efforts to a sort of Mezentian union: *Mortua jungebat corpora vivis*. All that remains for the Editor under these circumstances is to set in meet order and array the materials that he finds before him. Like Rob Roy, if they be 'ower bad for blessing, they are ower gude for banning:' and the most carelessly arranged line may perhaps be found to illustrate some neglected point of history.

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