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Original Poems And Translations, By John Dryden, Esq; Now First Collected and Publish'd together, In Two Volumes

Containing Translations, Epistles, Prologues, Epilogues, Elegies, Epitaphs, And Songs

Dryden, John

London, 1743

Prologue To The University of Oxford, 1674. Spoken by Mr. Hart.

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PROLOGUE

TO THE

University of OXFORD, 1674.

Spoken by Mr. HART.

POETS, your Subjects, have their Parts assign'd
T'unbend, and to divert their Sov'reign's Mind:
When, tir'd with following Nature, you think [fit
To seek repose in the cool Shades of Wit,
And, from the sweet Retreat, with Joy survey
What rests, and what is conquer'd, of the way.
Here, free your selves from Envy, Care, and Strife,
You view the various Turns of human Life:
Safe in our Scene, through dangerous Courts you go,
And, undebauch'd, the Vice of Cities know.
Your Theories are here to Practice brought,
As in Mechanick Operations wrought;
And Man, the little World, before you set,
As once the Sphere of Crystal shew'd the Great.

Blest

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