

Contents

Introduction	I
Note on the Text and Acknowledgment	58

EARLY PERIODICAL CRITICISM

1 Preface to William Lauder's <i>Essay on Milton</i> (1747)	61
2 <i>Rambler</i> 3: An allegory on criticism (1750)	63
3 <i>Rambler</i> 4: Morality and fiction (1750)	67
4 <i>Rambler</i> 36: On pastoral (1750)	72
5 <i>Rambler</i> 37: The true principles of pastoral poetry (1750)	76
6 <i>Rambler</i> 60: On biography (1750)	81
7 <i>Rambler</i> 86: Milton's versification (1751)	85
8 <i>Rambler</i> 88: The same continued (1751)	89
9 <i>Rambler</i> 90: Pauses in English poetry (1751)	94
10 <i>Rambler</i> 94: Representative versification in Milton (1751)	99
11 <i>Rambler</i> 125: On blending tragedy with comedy (1751)	106
12 <i>Rambler</i> 139: <i>Samson Agonistes</i> (1751)	111
13 <i>Rambler</i> 140: The criticism continued (1751)	117
14 <i>Rambler</i> 168: Shakespeare and 'mean expressions' (1751)	123
15 <i>Idler</i> 60: Dick Minim the critic (1759)	127
16 <i>Idler</i> 61: The same continued (1759)	131
17 <i>Idler</i> 77: Easy writing (1759)	134

THE DICTIONARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

18 Specimen Articles (1755, 1765): Comedy, Irony, Novel, Novelist, Poet, Poetry, Romance, Style, Tragedy, Wit	139
---	-----

x CONTENTS

JOHNSON ON SHAKESPEARE

19 Preface (1765)	149
20 Notes on the Plays (1765, 1778)	178

SELECTIONS FROM THE LIVES OF THE POETS (1779-81)

21 Cowley	253
22 Denham	269
23 Milton	275
24 Butler	299
25 Rochester	306
26 Otway	311
27 Waller	315
28 Philips	318
29 Dryden	320
30 Smith	358
31 Parnell	365
32 Garth	368
33 Rowe	371
34 Addison	373
35 Prior	381
36 Congreve	388
37 Fenton	393
38 Gay	398
39 Swift	400
40 Pope	403
41 Thomson	432
42 Collins	434
43 Dyer	437
44 Shenstone	439
45 Young	445
46 Akenside	448
47 Gray	451
Select Bibliography	461
Index	463