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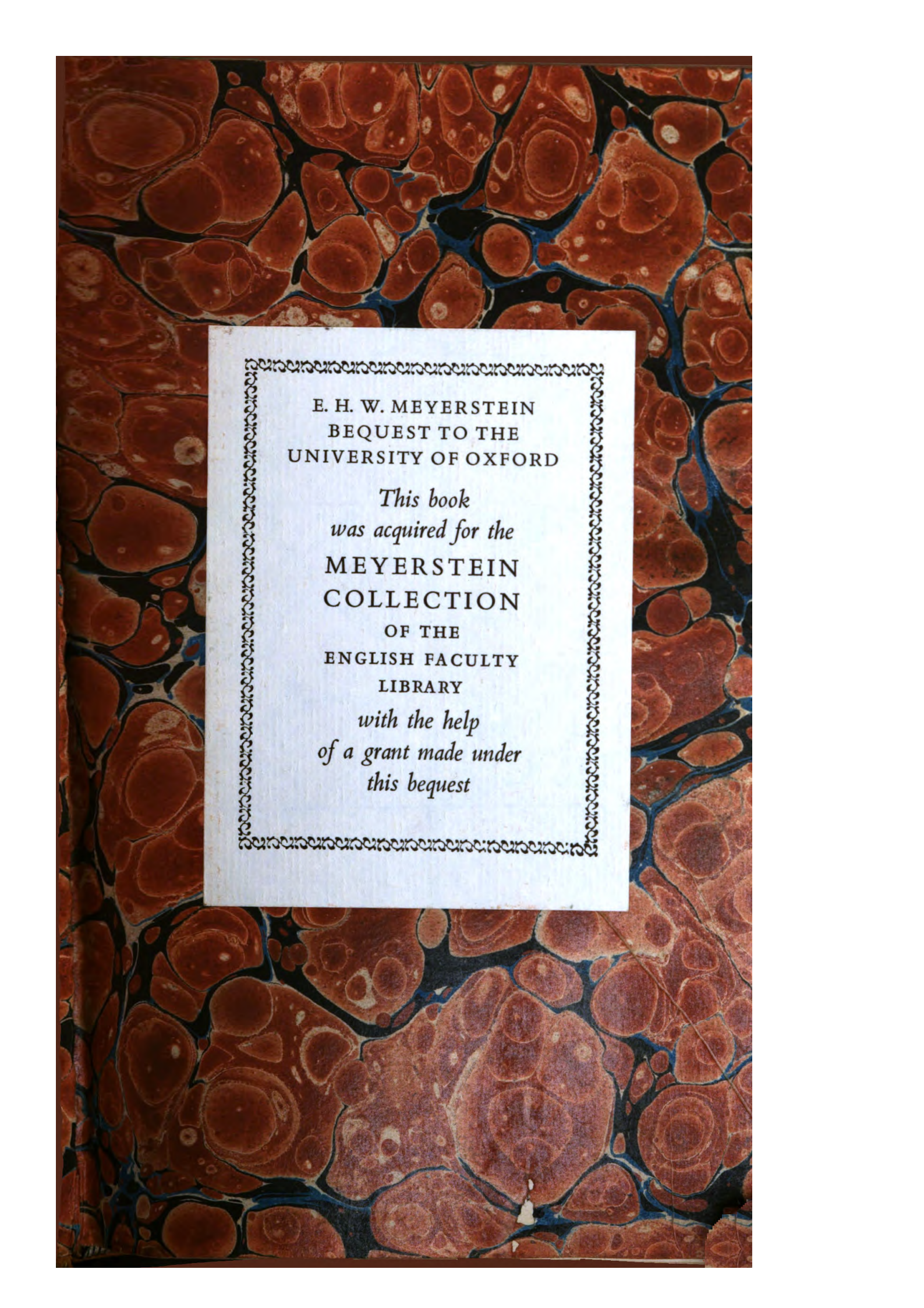


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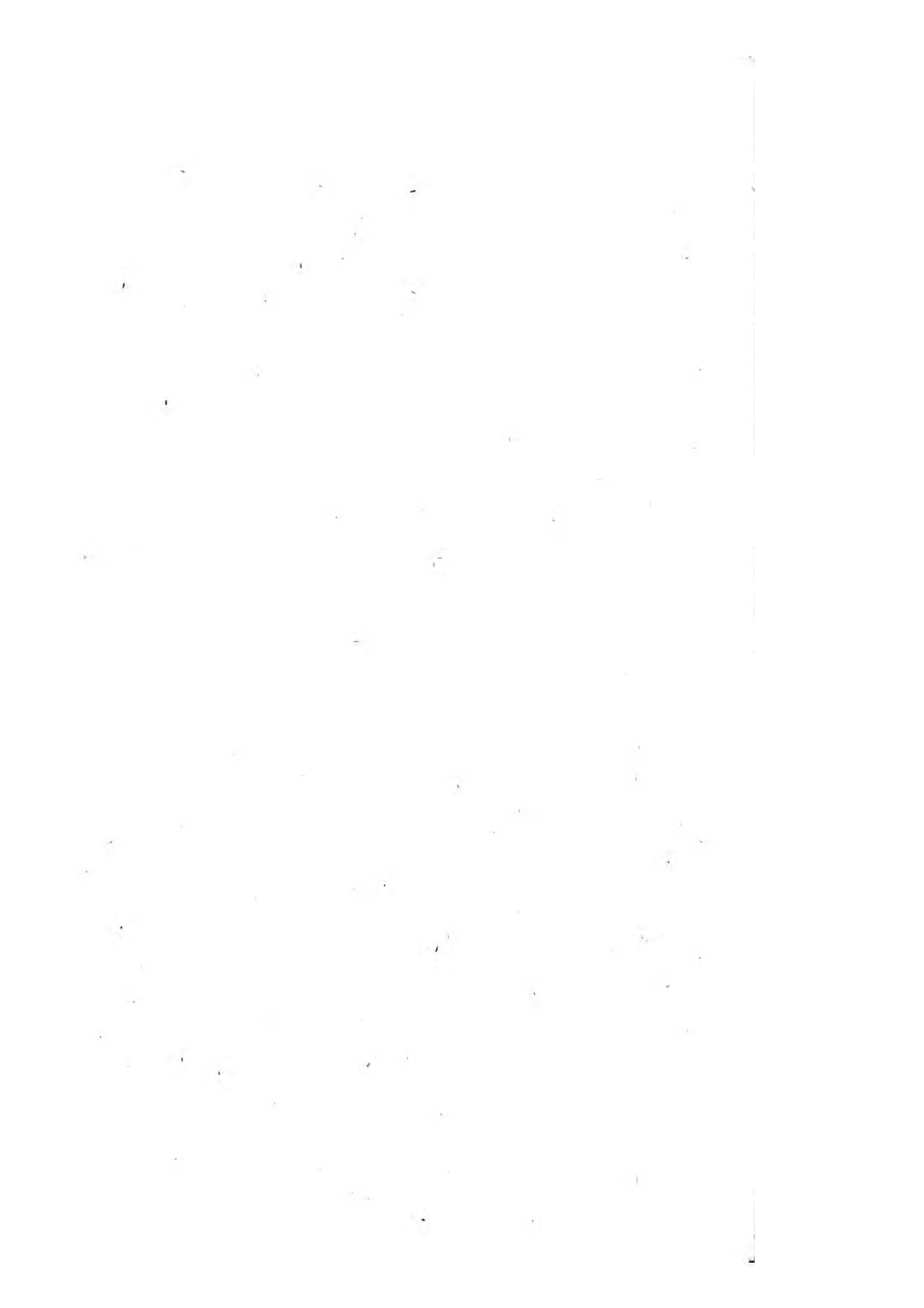
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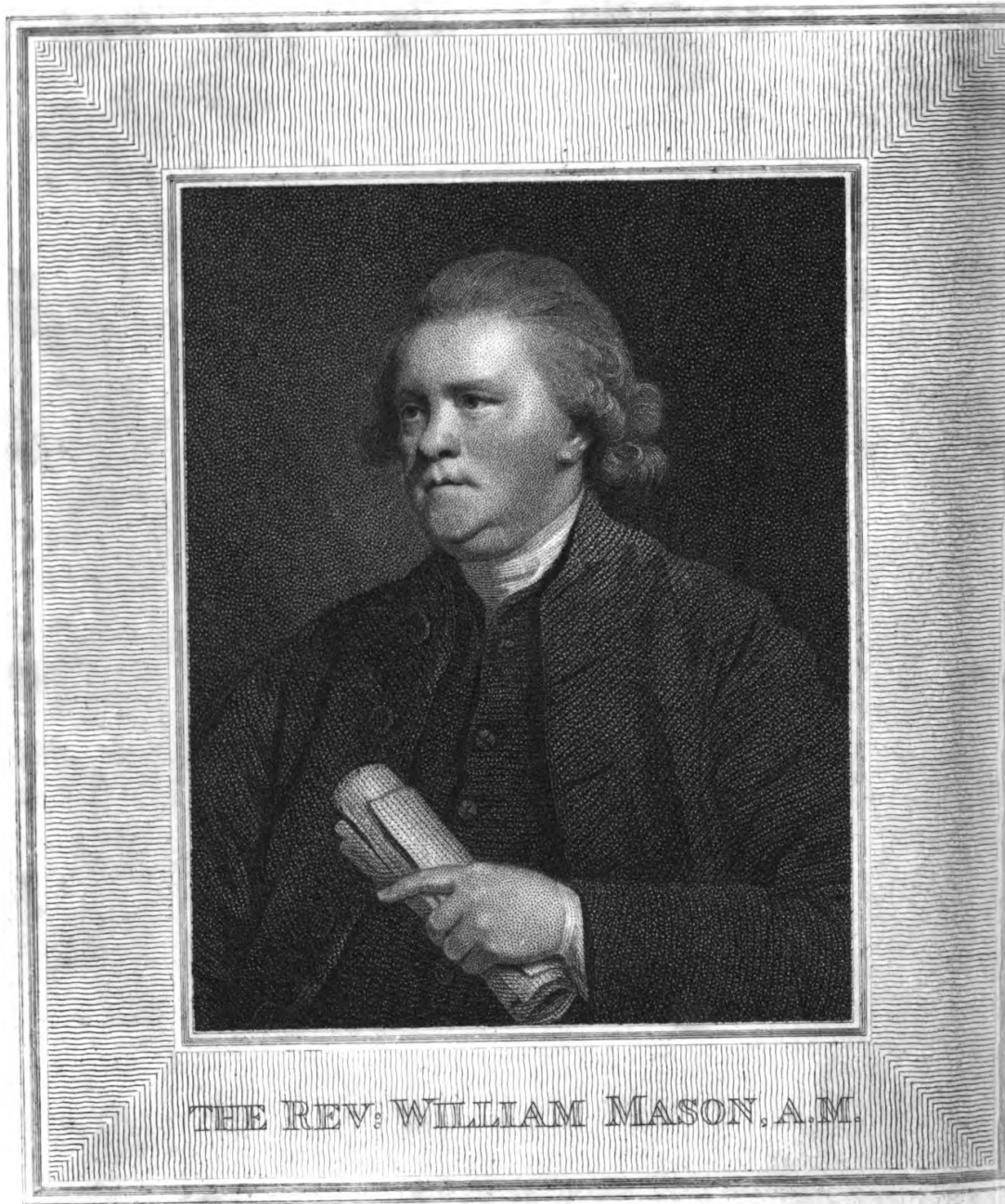
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THE  
WORKS  
OF  
WILLIAM MASON, M. A.

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*Engraved by R. Cooper, from an original Picture by SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS,  
at Pembroke Hall, Cambridge.*

*Published Jan. 28. 1811, by Cadell and Davies, Strand.*

THE  
WORKS  
OF  
WILLIAM MASON, M. A.

PRECENTOR OF YORK, AND RECTOR OF ASTON.

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IN FOUR VOLUMES.

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VOL. I.

LONDON:

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BY W. BULMER AND CO. CLEVELAND-ROW, ST. JAMES'S.

1811.



THE  
WORKS  
OF  
WILLIAM MASON, M. A.

VOL. I.

CONTAINING

MUSÆUS, ODES, ELEGIES, SONNETS, EPITAPHS, MISCELLANIES, THE ENGLISH GARDEN WITH COMMENTARY AND NOTES, RELIGIO CLERICI, HYMNS, AND SELECT PSALMS VERSIFIED.

VOL. I.

a





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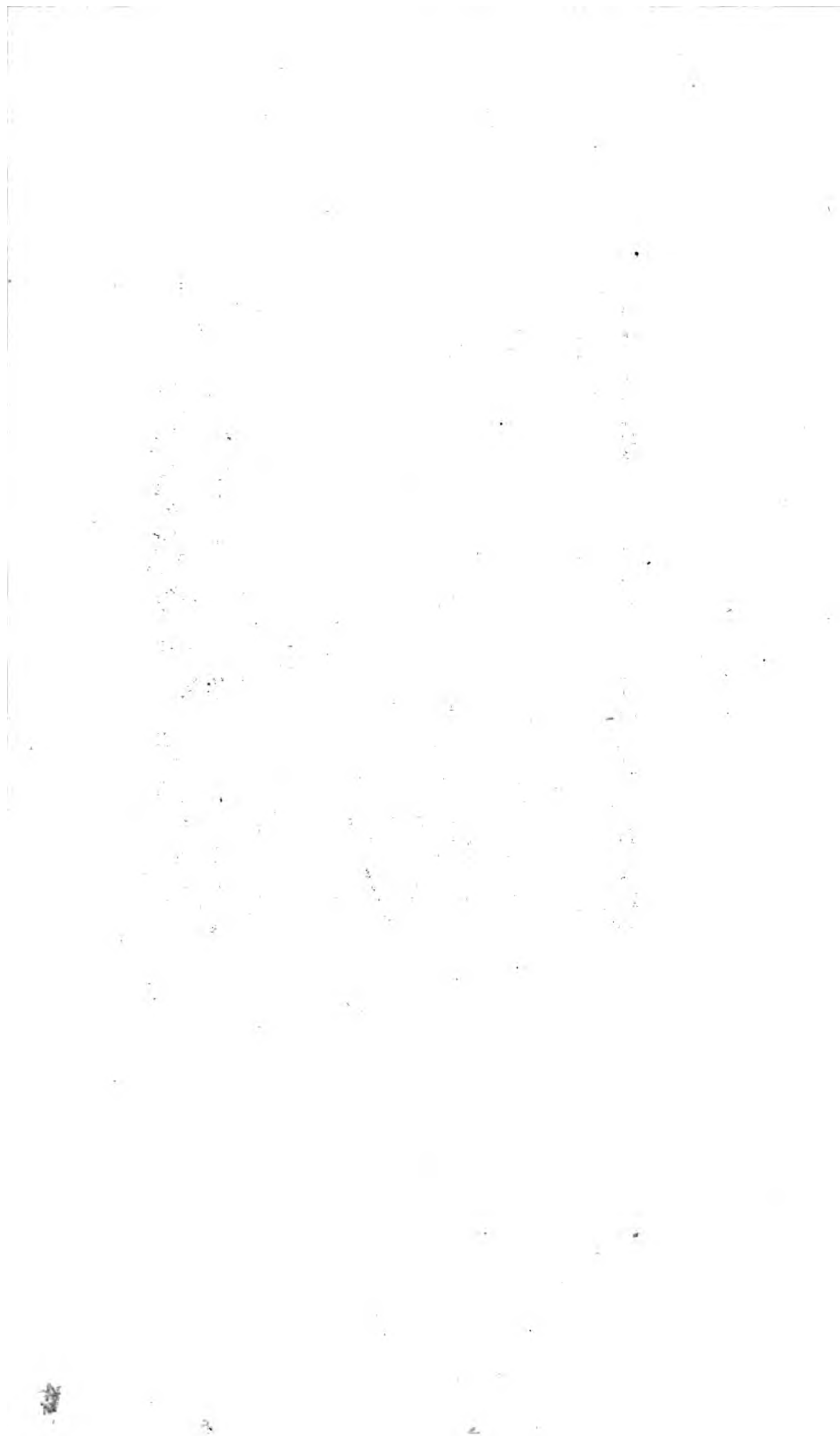
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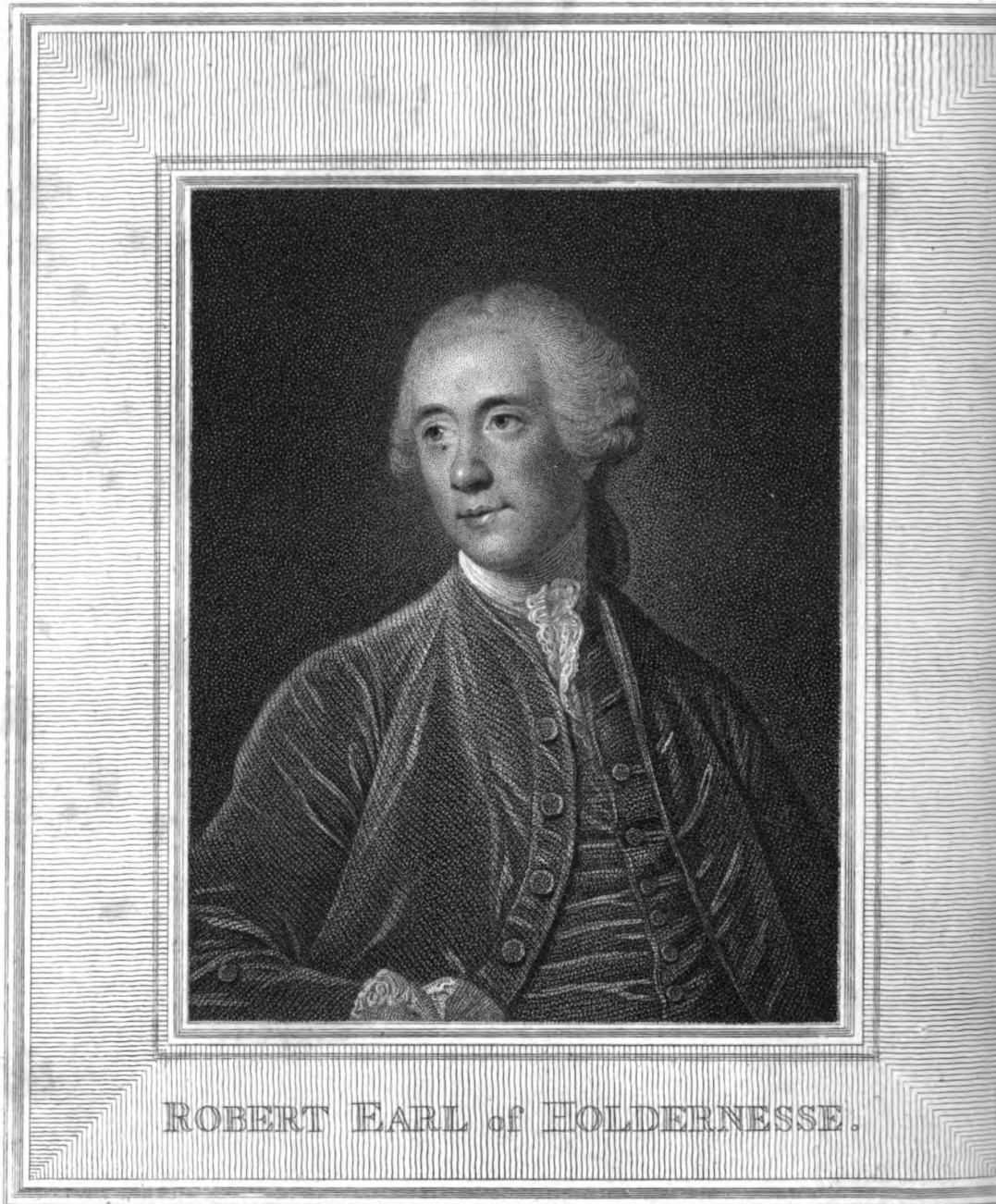
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*Robt. Cooper del.*

*Engraved by R. Cooper, from an original Picture by SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS,  
in the Possession of the REV. C. ALDERSON.*

*Published Jan. 28. 1811, by Cadell and Davies, Strand.*

TO

**ROBERT EARL OF HOLDERNESSE,  
BARON D'ARCY, MENIL AND CONYERS,  
LORD WARDEN OF HIS MAJESTY'S CINQUE PORTS, AND  
GOVERNOR OF DOVER CASTLE.**

**SONNET.**

**D'ARCY**, to thee, whate'er of happier vein,  
Smit with the love of Song, my youth essay'd,  
This verse devotes from **ASTON**'s secret shade,  
Where letter'd Ease, thy gift, endears the scene.  
Here, as the light-wing'd moments glide serene,  
I weave the bower, around the tufted mead  
In careless flow the simple pathway lead,  
And strew with many a rose the shaven green.  
So, to deceive my solitary days,  
With rural toils ingenuous arts I blend,  
Secure from envy, negligent of praise,  
Yet not unknown to fame, if **D'ARCY** lend  
His wonted smile to dignify my lays,  
The Muse's Patron, but the Poet's Friend.

**W. MASON.**

*May 12, 1763.*



#### ERRATA.

- Page 28, line 13, for *Ilissis* read *Ilissus*.  
29, — 6, for *by laws* read *thy laws*.  
117, — 21, for *copie* read *copied*.  
124, at note, for 108 read 104.  
125, — 3, for *Appelles* read *Apelles*, and first line of note,  
for *h* read *he*.  
179, note line 10, for *ere this Author* read *ere this the Author*.  
229, v. 486, for *There here* read *There hear*.  
255, v. 546, for *fragrance* read *fragrant*.  
263, v. 58, for *as if it still* read *as if still*.  
443, v. 113, for *his faith* read *this faith*.

---

MUSÆUS :  
A  
MONODY  
TO THE  
MEMORY OF MR. POPE.  
IN IMITATION OF MILTON'S LYCIDAS.

---

VOL. I.

B

Πᾶσι μὲν τοῖς ἀρχεῖύωις αὐτοφύης τις ἐπιπρέπει χάρις,  
καὶ ὦρα. Τοῖς δ' ἀπὸ τέτων κατεσκευασμένοις, κὰν  
ἐπ' ἄκρον μιμήσεως ἔλθωσι, πρόσες τι ὅμως τὸ ἐπιείη-  
δευμένον, καὶ ἐκ ἐκ φύσεως ὑπάρχον.

DIONYS. HALICARN. in Dinarcho.

# MUSÆUS : \*

A

## MONODY.

SORROWING I catch the reed, and call the Muse ;  
If yet a Muse on Britain's plain abide,  
Since rapt MUSÆUS tun'd his parting strain :  
With him they liv'd, with him, perchance, they dy'd.  
For who e'er since their virgin charms espy'd,  
Or on the banks of Thames, or met their train,  
Where Isis sparkles to the sunny ray ?  
Or have they deign'd to play,  
Where Camus winds along his broider'd vale,  
Feeding each blue-bell pale, and daisie pied,  
That fling their fragrance round his rushy side ?

Yet ah ! ye are not dead, Celestial Maids ;  
Immortal as ye are, ye may not die :  
Nor is it meet ye fly these pensive glades,  
Ere round his laureat herse ye heave the sigh.

### NOTE.

\* Mr. Pope died in the year 1744 ; this Poem was then written, and published first in the year 1747.

Stay then awhile, oh stay, ye fleeting fair ;  
 Revisit yet, nor hallow'd Hippocrene,  
 Nor Thespiæ's grove ; till with harmonious teen  
 Ye sooth his shade, and slowly-dittied air.  
 Such tribute pour'd, again ye may repair  
 To what lov'd haunt ye whilom did elect ;  
 Whether Lycæus, or that mountain fair,  
 Trim Mænalus, with piny verdure deckt.  
 But now it boots ye not in these to stray,  
 Or yet Cyllene's hoary shade to chuse,  
 Or where mild Ladon's welling waters play.  
 Forego each vain excuse,  
 And haste to Thames's shores ; for Thames shall join  
 Our sad society, and passing mourn,  
 The tears fast-trickling o'er his silver urn.  
 And, when the Poet's widow'd grot he laves,  
 His reed-crown'd locks shall shake, his head shall bow,  
 His tide no more in eddies blithe shall rove,  
 But creep soft by with long-drawn murmurs slow.  
 For oft the mighty Master rous'd his waves  
 With martial notes, or lull'd with strain of love :  
 He must not now in brisk meanders flow  
 Gamesome, and kiss the sadly-silent shore,  
 Without the loan of some poetic woe.

Say first, Sicilian Muse,  
 For, with thy sisters, thou didst weeping stand  
 In silent circle at the solemn scene,  
 When Death approach'd, and wav'd his ebon wand,

Say how each laurel droopt its with'ring green?  
 How, in yon grot, each silver-trickling spring  
 Wander'd the shelly channels all among ;  
 While as the coral roof did softly ring  
 Responsive to their sweetly-doleful song.  
 Meanwhile all pale th' expiring Poet laid,  
 And sunk his awful head,  
 While vocal shadows pleasing dreams prolong ;  
 For so, his sick'ning spirits to release,  
 They pour'd the balm of visionary peace.

First, sent from Cam's fair banks, like Palmer old,  
 Came TITYRUS \* slow, with head all silver'd o'er,  
 And in his hand an oaken crook he bore,  
 And thus in antique guise short talk did hold :  
 " Grete clerk of Fame' is house, whose excellence  
 " Maie wele befitt thilk place of eminence,  
 " Mickle of wele betide thy houres last,  
 " For mich gode wirkè to me don and past.  
 " For syn the days whereas my lyre ben strongen,  
 " And deftly many a mery laie I songen,  
 " Old Time, which alle things don maliciously  
 " Gnawen with rusty tooth continually,  
 " Gnatrid my lines, that they all cancrid ben,  
 " Till at the last thou smoothen 'hem hast again ;

## NOTE.

\* *Tityrus, &c.*] *i. e.* CHAUCER, a name frequently given him by Spenser. See *Shep. Cal. Ec.* 2, 6, 12, and elsewhere.

“ Sithence full semely gliden my rimes rude,  
 “ As, (if fitteth thilk similitude)  
 “ Whannè shallow brook yrenneth hobling on,  
 “ Ovir rough stones it makith full rough song ;  
 “ But, them stones removen, this lite rivere  
 “ Stealith forth by, making plesaunt murmere :  
 “ So my sely rymes, whoso may them note,  
 “ Thou makist everichone to ren right sote ;  
 “ And in thy verse entunist so fetisely,  
 “ That men sayen I make trewe melody,  
 “ And spoken every dele to myne honoure.  
 “ Mich wele, grete clerk, betide thy parting houre !”

He ceas'd his homely rhyme.

When COLIN CLOUT, \* Eliza's shepherd swain,  
 The blithest lad that ever pip'd on plain,  
 Came with his reed soft warbling on the way,  
 And thrice he bow'd his head with motion mild,  
 And thus his gliding numbers gan essay.

## I.

“ † Ah ! luckless swain, alas ! how art thou lorn,  
 “ Who once like me could'st frame thy pipe to play

## NOTES.

\* *Colin Clout,*] *i. e.* SPENSER, which name he gives himself throughout his works.

† The two first stanzas of this speech, as they relate to Pastoral, are written in the measure which Spenser uses in the first eclogue of the *Shepherd's Calendar* : the rest, where he speaks of fable, are in the stanza of the *Faery Queen*.

“ Shepherds devise, and chear the ling’ring morn :  
“ Ne bush, ne breere, but learnt thy roundelay,  
“ Ah plight too sore such worth to equal right !  
“ Ah worth too high to meet such piteous plight !

II.

“ But I nought strive, poor Colin, to compare  
“ My Hobbin’s or my Thenot’s rustic skill  
“ To thy deft swains, whose dapper ditties rare  
“ Surpass ought else of quaintest shepherd’s quill.  
“ Ev’n Roman Tityrus, that peerless wight,  
“ Mote yield to thee for dainties of delight.

III.

“ Eke when in Fable’s flow’ry paths you stray’d,  
“ Masking in cunning feints truth’s splendent face ;  
“ Ne Sylph, ne Sylphid, but due tendance paid,  
“ To shield Belinda’s lock from felon base,  
“ But all mote nought avail such harm to chace.  
“ Then Una fair ’gan droop her princely mien,  
“ Eke Florimel, and all my faery race :  
“ Belinda far surpast my beauties sheen,  
“ Belinda, subject meet for such soft lay, I ween.

IV

“ Like as in village troop of birdlings trim,  
“ Where Chanticleer his red crest high doth hold,



“ And quacking ducks, that wont in lake to swim,  
 “ And turkeys proud, and pigeons nothing bold ;  
 “ If chance the peacock doth his plumes unfold,  
 “ Eftsoons their meaner beauties all decaying,  
 “ He glist’neth purple and he glist’neth gold,  
 “ Now with bright green, now blue himself arraying.  
 “ Such is thy beauty bright, all other beauties swaying.

V.

“ But why do I descant this toyish rhyme,  
 “ And fancies light in simple guise pourtray,  
 “ Listing to chear thee at this rueful time,  
 “ While as black Death doth on thy heartstrings prey ?  
 “ Yet rede aright, and if this friendly lay  
 “ Thou nathless judgest all too slight and vain,  
 “ Let my well-meaning mend my ill essay :  
 “ So may I greet thee with a nobler strain,  
 “ When soon we meet for aye, in yon star-sprinkled  
 “ plain.”

Last came a bard of more majestic tread,  
 And THYRSIS\* hight by Dryad, Fawn, or Swain,

NOTE.

\* *Thyrsis hight*] i. e. MILTON. *Lycidas* and the *Epitaphium Damonis* are the only Pastorals we have of Milton's; in the latter of which, where he laments *Car. Deodatus* under the name of *Damon*, he calls himself *Thyrsis*.

Whene'er he mingled with the shepherd train ;  
 But seldom that ; for higher thoughts he fed ;  
 For him full oft the heav'nly Muses led  
 To clear Euphrates, and the secret mount,  
 To Araby, and Eden, fragrant climes,  
 All which the sacred bard would oft recount :  
 And thus in strain, unus'd in sylvan shade,  
 To sad MUSÆUS rightful homage paid.

“ Thrice hail, thou heav'n-taught warbler ! last and best  
 “ Of all the train ! Poet, in whom conjoin'd  
 “ All that to ear, or heart, or head, could yield  
 “ Rapture ; harmonious, manly, clear, sublime.  
 “ Accept this gratulation : may it cheer  
 “ Thy sinking soul ; nor these corporeal ills  
 “ Aught daunt thee, or appal. Know, in high heav'n  
 “ Fame blooms eternal o'er that spirit divine,  
 “ Who builds immortal verse. There thy bold Muse,  
 “ Which while on earth could breathe Mæonian fire,  
 “ Shall soar seraphic heights ; while to her voice  
 “ Ten thousand hierarchies of angels harp  
 “ Symphonious, and with dulcet harmonies  
 “ Usher the song rejoicing. I, meanwhile,  
 “ To sooth thee in these irksome hours of pain,  
 “ Approach, thy visitant, with mortal praise  
 “ To praise thee mortal. First, for Rhyme subdued ;  
 “ Rhyme, erst the minstrel of primæval Night,  
 “ And Chaos, Anarch old : She near their throne

“ Oft taught the rattling elements to chime  
 “ With tenfold din ; till late to earth upborn  
 “ On strident plume, what time fair Poesie  
 “ Emerg’d from Gothic cloud, and faintly shot  
 “ Rekindling gleams of lustre. Her the fiend  
 “ Opprest ; forcing to utter uncouth dirge,  
 “ Runic, or Leonine ; and with dire chains  
 “ Fetter’d her scarce-fledg’d pinion. I such bonds  
 “ Aim’d to destroy, hopeless that Art could ease  
 “ Their thralldom, and to liberal use convert.  
 “ This wonder to atchieve MUSÆUS came ;  
 “ Thou cam’st, and at thy magic touch the chains  
 “ Off dropt, and (passing strange !) soft-wreathed bands  
 “ Of flow’rs their place supply’d : which well the Muse  
 “ Might wear for choice, not force ; obstruction none,  
 “ But loveliest ornament. Wond’rous this, yet here  
 “ The wonder rests not ; various argument  
 “ Remains for me, uncertain, where to cull  
 “ The leading grace, where countless graces charm.  
 “ Various this peaceful cave ; this mineral roof ;  
 “ This ’semblage meet of coral, ore, and shell ;  
 “ These pointed crystals through the shadowy clefts  
 “ Bright glist’ring ; all these slowly-dripping rills,  
 “ That tinkling wander o’er the pebbled floor :  
 “ Yet not this various peaceful cave, with this  
 “ Its mineral roof ; nor this assemblage meet  
 “ Of coral, ore, and shell ; nor mid the shade

“ These pointed crystals, glist’ring fair ; nor rills,  
“ That wander tinkling o’er the pebbled floor,  
“ Deal charms more various to each raptured sense,  
“ Than thy mellifluous lay——”

“ Cease, friendly swain ;

“ (MUSÆUS cried, and raised his aching head)

“ ALL PRAISE IS FOREIGN, BUT OF TRUE DESERT ;

“ PLAYS ROUND THE HEAD, BUT COMES NOT TO THE

“ HEART.

“ Ah ! why recall the toys of thoughtless youth ?

“ When flowery fiction held the place of truth ?

“ Ere sound to sense resign’d the silken rein,

‘ And the light lay ran musically vain.

“ Oh ! in that lay had richest fancy flow’d,

“ The Syrens warbled, and the Graces glow’d ;

“ Had liveliest nature, happiest art combin’d ;

“ That lent each charm, and this each charm refined,

“ Alas ! how little were my proudest boast !

“ The sweetest trifler of my tribe at most.

“ To sway the judgment, while he soothes the ear ;

“ To curb mad passion in its wild career ;

“ To wake by sober touch the useful lyre,

“ And rule, with reason’s rigour, fancy’s fire :

“ Be this the poet’s praise. And this possess,

“ Take, Dulness and thy dunces ! take the rest.

“ Come then that honest fame ; whose temp’rate ray

“ Or gilds the satire, or the moral lay ;

“ Which dawns, though thou, rough **DONNE** ! hew out  
 “ the line :

“ But beams, sage **HORACE** ! from each strain of thine .

“ Oh, if like these, with conscious freedom bold,

“ One Poet more his manly measures roll'd,

“ Like these led forth the indignant Muse to brave

“ The venal statesman, and the titled slave ;

“ To strip from frontless Vice her stars and strings,

“ Nor spare her basking in the smile of kings :

“ If grave, yet lively ; rational, yet warm ;

“ Clear to convince, and eloquent to charm ;

“ He pour'd, for Virtue's cause, serene along

“ The purest precept, in the sweetest song :

“ If, for her cause, his heav'n-directed plan

“ Mark'd each meander in the maze of man ;

“ Unmoved by sophistry, unawed by name,

“ No dupe to doctrines, and no fool to fame ;

“ Led by no system's devious glare astray,

“ That meteor-like, but glitters to betray.

“ Yes, if his soul to reason's rule resign'd,

“ And heaven's own views fair-opening on his mind,

“ Caught from bright nature's flame the living ray,

“ Through passion's cloud pour'd in resistless day ;

“ And taught mankind in reas'ning Pride's despite,

“ That **GOD IS WISE, and ALL THAT IS IS RIGHT :**

“ If this his boast, pour here the welcome lays ;

“ Praise less than this is mockery of praise.”

“ To pour that praise be mine,” fair **VIRTUE** cry'd ;

And shot, all radiant, through an opening cloud.  
 But ah! my Muse, how will thy voice express  
 The immortal strain, harmonious, as it flow'd?  
 Ill suits immortal strain a Doric dress:  
 And far too high already hast thou soar'd.  
 Enough for thee, that, when the lay was o'er,  
 The goddess clasp'd him to her throbbing breast.  
 But what might that avail? Blind Fate before  
 Had op'd her shears, to cut his vital thread!  
 And who may dare gainsay her stern behest?  
 Now thrice he waved the hand, thrice bow'd the head,  
 And sigh'd his soul to rest.

Now wept the Nymphs; witness, ye waving shades!  
 Witness, ye winding streams! the Nymphs did weep:  
 The heavenly Goddess too with tears did steep  
 Her plaintive voice, that echo'd through the glades;  
 And, "cruel gods," and "cruel stars," she cried:  
 Nor did the shepherds, through the woodlands wide,

IMITATION.

*Now wept the Nymphs, &c.]*  
 Extinctum Nymphæ crudeli funere Daphnim  
 Flebant: vos coryli testes et flumina Nymphis.  
 Cum, complexa sui corpus miserabile nati,  
 Atque deos atque astra vocat crudelia Mater.  
 Non ulli pastos illis egêre diebus  
 Frigida, Daphni, boves ad flumina; nulla neque amnem  
 Libavit quadrupes, nec graminis attigit herbam.

VIRG. Ecl. 5.

On that sad day, or to the pensive brook,  
 Or silent river, drive their thirsty flocks :  
 Nor did the wild-goat brouze the shrubby rocks :  
 And Philomel her custom'd oak forsook :  
 And roses wan were waved by zephyrs weak,  
 As Nature's self was sick :  
 And every lily droop'd its silver head.  
 Sad sympathy! yet sure his rightful meed,  
 Who charm'd all nature : well might Nature mourn  
 Through all her choicest sweets MUSÆUS dead.

Here end we, Goddess! this your shepherd sang,  
 All as his hands an ivy chaplet wove.  
 Oh! make it worthy of the sacred Bard ;  
 And make it equal to the shepherd's love.  
 Thou too accept the strain with meet regard :  
 For sure, blest Shade, thou hear'st my doleful song ;  
 Whether with angel troops, the stars among,  
 From golden harp thou call'st seraphic lays ;  
 Or, for fair Virtue's cause, now doubly dear,  
 Thou still art hov'ring o'er our tuneless sphere ;  
 And mov'st some hidden spring her weal to raise.

## IMITATION.

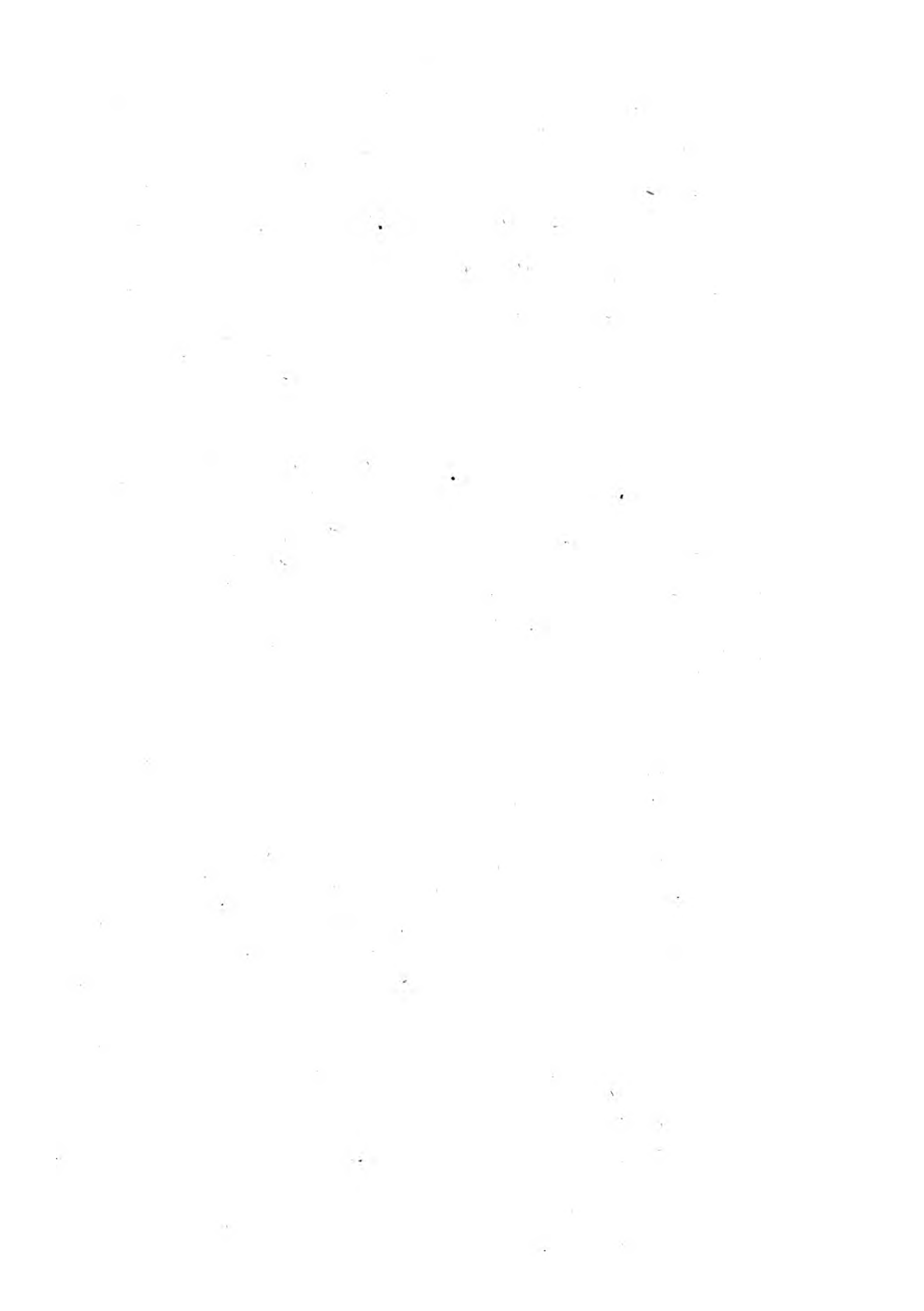
*Here end we, Goddess! &c.]*

Hæc sat erit, Divæ, vestrum cecinisse poetam,  
 Dum sedet, et gracili fiscellam textit hibisco,  
 Pierides: vos hæc facietis maxima Gallo:  
 Gallo, cujus amor, &c.

VIRG. Ecl. 10.

Thus the fond swain his Doric oate essay'd,  
Manhood's prime honours rising on his cheek :  
Trembling he strove to court the tuneful Maid  
With strippling arts, and dalliance all too weak,  
Unseen, unheard, beneath an hawthorn shade.  
But now dun clouds the welkin 'gan to streak ;  
And now down-dropt the larks, and ceased their strain :  
They ceased, and with them ceased the shepherd swain.





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**ODES.**

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**VOL. I.**

**C**



ODE I.

TO MEMORY.

I.

MOTHER OF WISDOM!\* thou, whose sway  
The throng'd ideal hosts obey;  
Who bid'st their ranks, now vanish, now appear,  
Flame in the van, or darken in the rear;  
Accept this votive verse. Thy reign  
Nor place can fix, nor power restrain.  
All, all is thine. For thee, the ear and eye  
Rove through the realms of grace and harmony:  
The senses thee spontaneous serve,  
That wake, and thrill through every nerve.  
Else vainly soft, loved Philomel! would flow  
The soothing sadness of thy warbled woe:  
Else vainly sweet yon woodbine shade  
With clouds of fragrance fill the glade;

NOTE.

\* According to a fragment of Afranius, who makes Experience and Memory the parents of Wisdom.

*Usus me genuit, Mater peperit* MEMORIA  
*ΣΟΦΙΑΝ vocant me Graii, vos SAPIENTIAM.*

This passage is preserved by Aulus Gellius, lib. xiii. cap. 8.

Vainly the cygnet spread her downy plume,  
The vine gush nectar, and the virgin bloom.  
    But swift to thee, alive, and warm,  
    Devolves each tributary charm :  
See modest Nature bring her simple stores,  
Luxuriant Art exhaust her plastic powers ;  
    While every flower in Fancy's clime,  
    Each gem of old heroic Time,  
Cull'd by the hand of the industrious Muse,  
Around thy shrine their blended beams diffuse.

II.

Hail, MEMORY ! hail. Behold, I lead  
To that high shrine the sacred Maid :  
Thy daughter she, the empress of the lyre,  
The first, the fairest of Aonia's quire.  
    She comes, and lo, thy realms expand :  
    She takes her delegated stand  
Full in the midst, and o'er thy numerous train  
Displays the awful wonders of her reign.  
    There throned supreme in native state  
    If Sirius flame with fainting heat,  
She calls ; ideal groves their shade extend,  
The cool gale breathes, the silent showers descend.  
    Or, if bleak winter, frowning round,  
    Disrobe the trees, and chill the ground,  
She, mild magician, waves her potent wand,  
And ready summers wake at her command.

See, visionary suns arise,  
 Through silver clouds, and azure skies ;  
 See sportive zephyrs fan the crisped streams ;  
 Thro' shadowy brakes light glance the sparkling beams :  
 While, near the secret moss-grown cave,  
 That stands beside the crystal wave,  
 Sweet Echo, rising from her rocky bed,  
 Mimics the feather'd chorus o'er her head.

III.

Rise, hallow'd MILTON ! rise, and say,  
 How, at thy gloomy close of day ;  
 How, when " depress'd by age, beset with wrongs :"  
 When " fall'n on evil days and evil tongues ;"  
 When darkness, brooding on thy sight,  
 Exiled the sov'reign lamp of light ;  
 Say, what could then one cheering hope diffuse ?  
 What friends were thine, save Mem'ry and the Muse ?  
 Hence the rich spoils, thy studious youth  
 Caught from the stores of ancient truth :  
 Hence all thy classic wand'rings could explore,  
 When rapture led thee to the Latian shore ;  
 Each scene, that Tiber's bank supplied ;  
 Each grace, that play'd on Arno's side ;  
 The tepid gales, through Tuscan glades that fly ;  
 The blue serene, that spreads Hesperia's sky ;  
 Were still thy own : thy ample mind  
 Each charm received, retain'd, combined.

And thence "the nightly visitant," that came  
To touch thy bosom with her sacred flame,  
    Recall'd the long-lost beams of grace,  
    That whilom shot from Nature's face,  
When God, in Eden, o'er her youthful breast  
Spread with his own right hand perfection's gorgeous vest.

ODE II.

TO A WATER-NYMPH.\*

**Y**E green hair'd Nymphs, whom Pan's decrees  
 Have given to guard this solemn wood,†  
 To speed the shooting scions into trees,  
 And call the roseate blossom from the bud,  
 Attend. But chief, thou Naiad, wont to lead  
 This fluid crystal sparkling as it flows,  
     Whither, ah, whither art thou fled?  
     What shade is conscious to thy woes?  
     Ah, 'tis yon poplars' awful gloom :  
     Poetic eyes can pierce the scene ;  
 Can see thy drooping head, thy withering bloom ;  
 See grief diffused o'er all thy languid mien.  
 Well may'st thou wear misfortune's fainting air  
 Well rend those flow'ry honours from thy brow ;

NOTES.

\* This Ode was written in the year 1747, and published in the first volume of Mr. Dodsley's Miscellany. It is here revised throughout, and concluded according to the Author's original idea.

† A seat near \* \* finely situated, with a great command of water ; but disposed in a very false taste.



Devolve that length of careless hair ;  
 And give thine azure veil to flow  
 Loose to the wind : for, oh, thy pain  
 The pitying Muse can well relate :  
 That pitying Muse shall breathe her tend'rest strain,  
 To teach the echoes thy disastrous fate.  
 'Twas, where yon beeches' crowding branches closed,  
 What time the dog-star's flames intensely burn,  
     In gentle indolence composed,  
     Reclined upon thy trickling urn,  
     Slumb'ring thou lay'st, all free from fears ;  
     No friendly dream foretold thine harm ;  
 When sudden, see, the tyrant Art appears,  
 To snatch the liquid treasures from thine arm.  
 Art, Gothic Art, has seized thy darling vase :  
 That vase which silver-slipper'd Thetis gave,  
     For some soft story told with grace,  
     Among the associates of the wave ;  
     When, in sequester'd coral vales,  
     While worlds of waters roll'd above,  
 The circling sea-nymphs told alternate tales  
 Of fabled changes, and of slighted love.  
 Ah ! loss too justly mourn'd : for now the fiend  
 Has on yon shell-wrought terrace pois'd it high ;  
     And thence he bids its streams descend,  
     With torturing regularity.  
     From step to step, with sullen sound,  
     The forc'd cascades indignant leap ;

Now sinking fill the bason's measur'd round ;  
There in a dull stagnation doom'd to sleep.  
Where now the vocal pebbles' gurgling song ?  
The rill slow-dripping from its rocky spring ?  
    What free meander winds along,  
    Or curls when Zephyr waves his wing ?  
    Alas, these glories are no more :  
    Fortune, oh, give me to redeem  
The ravish'd vase ; oh, give me to restore  
Its ancient honours to this hapless stream.  
Then, Nymph, again, with all their wonted ease,  
Thy wanton waters, volatile and free,  
    Shall wildly warble, as they please,  
    Their soft, loquacious harmony.  
    Where Thou and Nature bid them rove,  
    There will I gently aid their way ;  
Whether to darken in the shadowy grove,  
Or, in the mead, reflect the dancing ray.  
For thee too, Goddess, o'er that hallow'd spot,  
Where first thy fount of chrystal bubbles bright,  
    These hands shall arch a rustic grot,  
    Impervious to the garish light.  
    I'll not demand of Ocean's pride  
    To bring his coral spoils from far :  
Nor will I delve yon yawning mountain's side,  
For latent minerals rough, or polish'd spar :  
But antique roots, with ivy dark o'ergrown,  
Steep'd in the bosom of thy chilly lake,

Thy touch shall turn to living stone ;  
And these the simple roof shall deck.  
Yet grant one melancholy boon :  
Grant that, at evening's sober hour,  
Led by the lustre of the rising moon,  
My step may frequent tread thy pebbled floor.  
There, if perchance I wake the love lorn theme,  
In melting accents querulously slow,  
Kind Naiad, let thy pitying stream  
With wailing notes accordant flow :  
So shalt thou sooth this heaving heart,  
That mourns a faithful virgin lost ;  
So shall thy murmurs, and my sighs impart  
Some share of pensive pleasure to her ghost.

ODE III.

ON LEAVING ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE,

1746.

**G**RANTA farewell! thy time-ennobled shade  
No more must glimmer o'er my musing head,  
    Where waking dreams, of Fancy born,  
    Around me floated eve and morn.  
I go—Yet, mindful of the charms I leave,  
Mem'ry shall oft their pleasing portrait give;  
    Shall teach th'ideal stream to flow  
    Like gentle Camus, soft and slow;  
Recall each antique spire, each cloister's gloom,  
And bid this vernal noon of life re-bloom.  
    Ev'n if old age, in northern clime,  
    Shower on my head the snows of time,  
There still shall Gratitude her tribute pay  
To him who first approv'd my infant lay;\*  
    And fair to Recollection's eyes  
    Shall POWELL's various virtues rise.

NOTE.

\* It was by the advice of Dr. POWELL, the author's tutor at St. John's College, that *MUSÆUS* was published. This Ode was for the first time printed from a corrected copy 1797.

See the bright train around their fav'rite throng :  
 See Judgment lead meek Diffidence along,  
     Impartial Reason following slow,  
     Disdain at Error's shrine to bow,  
 And Science, free from hypothetic pride,  
 Proceed where sage Experience deigns to guide.  
     Such were the guests from Jove that came,  
     Genius of Greece ! to fix thy fame :  
 These wak'd the bold Socratic thought, and drest  
 Its simple beauties in the splendid vest  
     Of Plato's diction : These were seen  
     Full oft on academic green ;  
 Full oft where clear Ilissis warbling stream'd ;  
 Bright o'er each master of the mind they beam'd,  
     Inspiring that preceptive art  
     Which, while it charm'd, refin'd the heart,  
 And with spontaneous ease, not pedant toil,  
 Bade Fancy's roses bloom in Reason's soil.  
     The fane of Science then was hung  
     With wreathes that on Parnassus sprung ;  
 And in that fane to his encircling youth  
 The Sage dispens'd th'ambrosial food of Truth,\*  
     And mingled in the social bowl  
     Friendship, the nectar of the soul.

## NOTE.

\* Alluding to the ΣΥΜΠΙΟΣΙΑ, particularly Zenophon's respecting the moral songs of the Greeks.—See Dr. Hurd's note on the 219th verse of Horace's Art of Poetry, *Vol. i. p. 173, 4th edit.*

Meanwhile accordant to the Dorian lyre,  
The moral Muses join'd the vocal choir,  
    And Freedom dancing to the sound  
    Mov'd in chaste Order's graceful round.  
Thus, Athens, were thy freeborn offspring train'd  
To act each patriot part by laws ordain'd ;  
    Thus void of magisterial awe,  
    Each youth in his instructor saw  
Those manners mild, unknown in modern school,  
Which form'd him by example more than rule ;  
    And felt that, varying but in name,  
    The Friend and Master were the same.

ODE IV.

ON EXPECTING TO RETURN TO CAMBRIDGE,

1747.\*

I. 1.

WHILE Commerce, riding on thy reflux tide,  
Impetuous HUMBER ! wafts her stores  
From Belgian or Norwegian shores  
And spreads her countless sails from side to side ;  
While, from yon crowded strand,  
Thy genuine sons the pinnace light unmoor,  
Break the white surge with many a sparkling oar,  
To pilot the rich freight o'er each insidious sand ;

I. 2.

At distance here my alien footsteps stray,  
O'er this bleak plain unblest with shade,  
Imploring Fancy's willing aid  
To bear me from thy banks of sordid clay :

NOTE.

\* This was also for the first time printed 1797. In the interval between the dates of the preceding Ode and of this, the author had been unexpectedly nominated by the Fellows of Pembroke Hall to a vacant Fellowship. See *Memoirs of Mr. Gray*, vol. iii, p. 70, edit. 1778.

Her barque the fairy lends,  
With rainbow pennants deck'd, and cordage fine  
As the wan silkworm spins her golden twine,  
And, ere I seize the helm, the magic voyage ends.

I. 3.

Lo, where peaceful CAMUS glides  
Through his ozier-fringed vale,  
Sacred Leisure there resides  
Musing in his cloyster pale.  
Wrapt in a deep solemnity of shade,  
Again I view fair Learning's spiry seats,  
Again her ancient elms o'erhang my head,  
Again her votary Contemplation meets,  
Again I listen to Æolian lays,  
Or on those bright heroic portraits gaze,  
That, to my raptur'd eye, the classic page displays.

II. 1.

Here, though from childhood to the Muses known,  
The Lyric Queen her charms reveal'd ;  
Here, by superior influence held  
My soul enchain'd, and made me all her own.  
Re-echo every plain !  
While, from the chords she tun'd, the silver voice  
Of heav'n-born harmony proclaims the choice  
My youthful heart has made to all Aonia's train.



II. 2.

Here too each social charm that most endears :  
Sincerity with open eye,  
And frolic Wit, and Humour sly,  
Sat sweetly mix'd among my young compeers.  
When, o'er the sober bowl,  
That but dispell'd the mind's severer gloom,  
And gave the budding thought its perfect bloom,  
Truth took its circling course and flow'd from soul to soul.

II. 3.

Hail ye friendly faithful few !  
All the streams that Science pours,  
Ever pleasing, ever new,  
From her ample urn be yours.  
When, when shall I amid your train appear,  
O when be number'd with your constant guests,  
When join your converse, when applauding hear  
The mental music of accordant breasts ?  
Till then, fair Fancy ! wake these favourite themes,  
Still kindly shed these visionary gleams,  
Till suns autumnal rise, and realize my dreams.

ODE V.  
FOR MUSIC.\*

IRREGULAR.

I.

HERE all thy active fires diffuse,  
Thou genuine *British* Muse ;  
Hither descend from yonder orient sky,  
Cloath'd in thy heav'n-wove robe of harmony.  
Come, imperial Queen of Song ;  
Come with all that free-born grace  
Which lifts thee from the servile throng,  
Who meanly mimic thy majestic pace ;  
That glance of dignity divine,  
Which speaks thee of celestial line ;  
Proclaims thee inmate of the sky,  
Daughter of Jove and Liberty.

NOTE.

\* This Ode was written at the request of the Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge, set to music by the late Dr. Boyce, and performed in the Senate-House at Cambridge, July 1st, 1749, at the Installation of his Grace THOMAS HOLLIS, Duke of Newcastle, Chancellor of the University ; it has since appeared in some Miscellaneous Collections of Poetry, and was therefore inserted 1797.

II.

The elevated soul, that feels  
Thy awful impulse, walks the fragrant ways  
Of honest unpolluted praise :  
He with impartial justice deals  
The blooming chaplets of immortal lays :  
He flies above ambition's low career ;  
And thron'd in Truth's meridian sphere,  
Thence, with a bold and heav'n-directed aim,  
Full on fair Virtue's shrine he pours the rays of Fame.

III.

Goddess ! thy piercing eye explores  
The radiant range of Beauty's stores,  
The steep ascent of pine-clad hills,  
The silver slope of falling rills ;  
Catches each lively-coloured grace,  
The crimson of the Wood-Nymph's face,  
The verdure of the velvet lawn,  
The purple of the eastern dawn,  
And all the tints that, rang'd in vivid glow,  
Mark the bold sweep of the celestial bow.

IV.

But loftier far her tuneful transports rise,  
When all the moral beauties meet her eyes :  
The sacred zeal for Freedom's cause,  
That fires the glowing Patriot's breast ;

The honest pride that plumes the Hero's crest,  
When for his country's aid the steel he draws :  
Or that, the calm yet active heat,  
With which mild Genius warms the Sage's heart,  
To lift fair Science to a loftier seat,  
Or stretch to ampler bounds the wide domain of art.  
These, the best blossoms of the virtuous mind,  
She culls with taste refin'd ;  
From their ambrosial bloom  
With bee-like skill she draws the rich perfume,  
And blends the sweets they all convey  
In the soft balm of her mellifluous lay.

V.

Is there a clime, in one collected beam  
Where charms like these their varied radiance stream ?  
Is there a plain, whose genial soil inhales  
Glory's invigorating gales,  
Her brightest beams where Emulation spreads,  
Her kindest dews where Science sheds,  
Where ev'ry stream of Genius flows,  
Where ev'ry flow'r of Virtue glows ?  
Thither the Muse exulting flies,  
There loudly cries——  
Majestic GRANTA ! hail thy awful name,  
Dear to the Muse, to Liberty, to Fame.

VI.

You too, illustrious Train, she greets,  
Who first in these inspiring seats  
Caught that ætherial fire  
That prompts you to aspire  
To deeds of civic note : whether to shield  
From base chicane your country's laws ;  
To pale Disease the bloom of health to yield ;  
Or in Religion's hallow'd cause  
Those heavenly-temper'd arms to wield,  
That drive the foes of Faith indignant from the field.

VII.

And now she tunes her plausible song  
To you her sage domestic throng ;  
Who here at Learning's richest shrine,  
Dispense to each ingenuous youth  
The treasures of immortal Truth,  
And open Wisdom's golden mine.  
Each youth, inspir'd by your persuasive art,  
Clasps the dear form of Virtue to his heart ;  
And feels in his transported soul  
Enthusiastic raptures roll,  
Gen'rous as those the Sons of Cecrops caught  
In hoar Lycæum's shades from Plato's fire-clad thought.

VIII.

O GRANTA ! on thy happy plain  
Still may these Attic glories reign :  
Still may'st thou keep thy wonted state  
In unaffected grandeur great ;  
Great as at this illustrious hour,  
When HE, whom GEORGE'S well-weigh'd choice,  
And ALBION'S gen'ral voice  
Have lifted to the fairest heights of pow'r,  
When He appears, and deigns to shine  
The leader of thy learned line ;  
And bids the verdure of thy olive bough  
Mid all his civic chaplets twine,  
And add fresh glories to his honour'd brow.

IX.

Haste then, and amply o'er his head  
The graceful foliage spread.  
Meanwhile the Muse shall snatch the trump of Fame,  
And lift her swelling accents high,  
To tell the world that PELHAM'S name  
Is dear to Learning as to Liberty.

ODE VI.

TO INDEPENDENCY.

I.

**H**ERE, on my native shore reclin'd,  
While Silence rules this midnight hour,  
I woo thee, GODDESS. On my musing mind  
Descend, propitious Power !  
And bid these ruffling gales of grief subside :  
Bid my calm'd soul with all thy influence shine ;  
As yon chaste orb along this ample tide  
Draws the long lustre of her silver line,  
While the hush'd breeze its last weak whisper blows,  
And lulls old HUMBER to his deep repose.

II.

Come to thy vot'ry's ardent prayer,  
In all thy graceful plainness drest :  
No knot confines thy waving hair,  
No zone, thy floating vest ;  
Unsullied Honour decks thine open brow,  
And Candour brightens in thy modest eye :  
Thy blush is warm Content's ethereal glow ;  
Thy smile is Peace ; thy step is Liberty :  
Thou scatter'st blessings round with lavish hand,  
As Spring with careless fragrance fills the land.

## III.

As now o'er this lone beach I stray,  
 Thy fav'rite swain \* oft stole along,  
 And artless wove his Dorian lay,  
 Far from the busy throng.

Thou heard'st him, Goddess, strike the tender string,  
 And bad'st his soul with bolder passions move :  
 Soon these responsive shores forgot to ring,  
 With Beauty's praise, or plaint of slighted Love ;  
 To loftier flights his daring genius rose,  
 And led the war, 'gainst thine, and Freedom's foes.

## IV.

Pointed with Satire's keenest steel,  
 The shafts of Wit he darts around ;  
 Ev'n mitred Dulness † learns to feel,  
 And shrinks beneath the wound.

In awful poverty his honest Muse  
 Walks forth vindictive thro' a venal land :  
 In vain Corruption sheds her golden dews,  
 In vain Oppression lifts her iron hand ;  
 He scorns them both, and, arm'd with Truth alone,  
 Bids Lust and Folly tremble on the throne.

## NOTES.

\* Andrew Marvell, born at Kingston upon Hull in the year 1620.

† See *The Rehearsal transposed*, and an account of the effect of that satire, in the *Biographia Britannica*, art. *Marvell*.



V.

Behold, like him, immortal Maid,  
The Muses' vestal fires I bring :  
Here, at thy feet, the sparks I spread :  
Propitious wave thy wing,  
And fan them to that dazzling blaze of song,  
Which glares tremendous on the sons of Pride.  
But, hark ! methinks I hear her hallow'd tongue !  
In distant trills it echoes o'er the tide ;  
Now meets mine ear with warbles wildly free,  
As swells the lark's meridian extasy.

VI.

“ Fond youth ! to MARVELL's patriot fame,  
“ Thy humble breast must ne'er aspire.  
“ Yet nourish still the lambent flame ;  
“ Still strike thy blameless lyre :  
“ Led by the moral Muse, securely rove ;  
“ And all the vernal sweets thy vacant youth  
“ Can cull from busy Fancy's fairy grove,  
“ Oh hang their foliage round the fane of Truth :  
“ To arts like these devote thy tuneful toil,  
“ And meet its fair reward in D'ARCY's smile.

VII.

“ 'Tis he, my Son, alone shall cheer  
“ Thy sick'ning soul ; at that sad hour,  
“ When o'er a much-lov'd parent's bier,  
“ Thy duteous sorrows shower :

“ At that sad hour, when all thy hopes decline ;  
“ When pining Care leads on her pallid train,  
“ And sees thee, like the weak, and widow'd vine,  
“ Winding thy blasted tendrils o'er the plain :  
“ At that sad hour shall D'ARCY lend his aid,  
“ And raise with Friendship's arm thy drooping head.

VIII.

“ This fragrant wreath, the Muse's meed,  
“ That bloom'd those vocal shades among,  
“ Where never Flatt'ry dar'd to tread,  
“ Or Interest's servile throng ;  
“ Receive, thou favour'd Son, at my command,  
“ And keep, with sacred care, for D'ARCY's brow :  
“ Tell him, 'twas wove by my immortal hand,  
“ I breath'd on every flower a purer glow ;  
“ Say, for thy sake I send the gift divine  
“ To him, who calls thee HIS, yet makes thee MINE.”

ODE VII.

TO A FRIEND.

I.

AH! cease this kind persuasive strain,  
Which, when it flows from Friendship's tongue,  
However weak, however vain,  
O'erpowers beyond the Siren's song :  
Leave me, my friend, indulgent go,  
And let me muse upon my woe.  
Why lure me from these pale retreats ?  
Why rob me of these pensive sweets ?  
Can Music's voice, can Beauty's eye,  
Can Painting's glowing hand supply  
A charm so suited to my mind,  
As blows this hollow gust of wind,  
As drops this little weeping rill  
Soft tinkling down the moss-grown hill,  
While thro' the west, where sinks the crimson day,  
Meek Twilight slowly sails, and waves her banners gray ?

II.

Say, from Affliction's various source  
 Do none but turbid waters flow ?  
 And cannot Fancy clear their course ?  
 For Fancy is the friend of Woe.  
 Say, mid that grove, in love-lorn state,  
 While yon poor ringdove mourns her mate,  
 Is all, that meets the shepherd's ear,  
 Inspir'd by anguish, and despair ?  
 Ah ! no ; fair Fancy rules the song :  
 She swells her throat ; she guides her tongue ;  
 She bids the waving aspin spray  
 Quiver in cadence to her lay ;  
 She bids the fringed osiers bow,  
 And rustle round the lake below,  
 To suit the tenor of her gurgling sighs,  
 And sooth her throbbing breast with solemn sympathies.

III.

To thee, whose young and polish'd brow  
 The wrinkling hand of Sorrow spares ;  
 Whose cheeks, bestrew'd with roses, know  
 No channel for the tide of tears ;  
 To thee yon abbey dank, and lone,  
 Where ivy chains each mould'ring stone  
 That nods o'er many a martyr's tomb,  
 May cast a formidable gloom.

Yet some there are, who, free from fear,  
 Could wander through the cloisters drear,  
 Could rove each desolated isle,  
 Though midnight thunders shook the pile ;  
 And dauntless view, or seem to view,  
 (As faintly flash the lightnings blue)  
 Thin shiv'ring ghosts from yawning charnels throng,  
 And glance with silent sweep the shaggy vaults along.

IV.

But such terrific charms as these,  
 I ask not yet : My sober mind  
 The fainter forms of sadness please ;  
 My sorrows are of softer kind.  
 Through this still valley let me stray,  
 Rapt in some strain of pensive GRAY :  
 Whose lofty genius bears along  
 The conscious dignity of Song ;  
 And, scorning from the sacred store  
 To waste a note on Pride or Power,  
 Roves through the glimmering twilight gloom,  
 And warbles round each rustic tomb :  
 He, too, perchance (for well I know,  
 His heart can melt with friendly woe)  
 He, too, perchance, when these poor limbs are laid,  
 Will heave one tuneful sigh, and sooth my hov'ring shade.

ODE VIII.

ON THE FATE OF TYRANNY.\*

I. 1.

**O**PPRESSION dies : the tyrant falls :

The golden city bows her walls !

**JEHOVAH** breaks the avenger's rod.

The Son of Wrath, whose ruthless hand

Hurl'd desolation o'er the land,

Has run his raging race, has closed the scene of blood.

Chiefs arm'd around behold their vanquish'd lord ;

Nor spread the guardian shield, nor lift the loyal sword.

NOTE.

\* This Ode is a free paraphrase of part of the 14th chapter of Isaiah, where the Prophet, after he has foretold the destruction of Babylon, subjoins a Song of Triumph, which, he supposes, the Jews will sing when his prediction is fulfilled. *And it shall come to pass in the day that the Lord shall give thee rest from thy sorrow, and from thy fear, and from the hard bondage wherein thou wast made to serve, that thou shalt take up this proverb against the King of Babylon, and say, "How hath the oppressor ceased," &c.*

1st Strophe, ver. 4, 5, 6.

I. 2.

He falls ; and earth again is free.  
Hark ! at the call of Liberty,  
    All Nature lifts the choral song.  
The fir-trees, on the mountain's head,  
Rejoice through all their pomp of shade ;  
The lordly cedars nod on sacred Lebanon :  
    Tyrant ! they cry, since thy fell force is broke,  
Our proud heads pierce the skies, nor fear the woodman's  
    stroke.

I. 3.

Hell, from her gulf profound,  
Rouses at thine approach ; and, all around,  
Her dreadful notes of preparation sound.  
    See, at the awful call,  
    Her shadowy heroes all,  
Even mighty kings, the heirs of empire wide,  
Rising, with solemn state, and slow,  
From their sable thrones below,  
    Meet, and insult thy pride.  
What, dost thou join our ghostly train,  
A fitting shadow light, and vain ?

REFERENCES.

- 1st Antistrophe, *The whole earth is at rest*, &c. ver. 7, 8.  
1st Epode, *Hell from beneath is moved for thee*, &c. ver. 9, 10, 11.

Where is thy pomp, thy festive throng,  
Thy revel dance, and wanton song?  
Proud king! Corruption fastens on thy breast;  
And calls her crawling brood, and bids them share the  
feast.

II. 1.

Oh Lucifer! thou radiant star;  
Son of the Morn; whose rosy car  
    Flamed foremost in the van of day:  
How art thou fall'n, thou King of Light!  
How fall'n from thy meridian height!  
Who said'st the distant poles shall hear me, and obey.  
    High, o'er the stars, my sapphire throne shall glow,  
And, as JEHOVAH'S self, my voice the heav'ns shall bow.

II 2.

He spake, he died. Distain'd with gore,  
Beside yon yawning cavern hoar,  
    See, where his livid corse is laid.  
The aged pilgrim passing by,  
    Surveys him long with dubious eye;  
And muses on his fate, and shakes his reverend head.

REFERENCES.

2d Strophe, *How art thou fallen from Heaven, &c.* ver. 12, 13, 14.  
2d Antistrophe, *Yet thou shalt be brought down to Hell, &c.* ver.  
15, 16.



Just heavens ! is thus thy pride imperial gone ?  
Is this poor heap of dust the King of Babylon ?

II. 3.

Is this the man, whose nod  
Made the earth tremble : whose terrific rod  
Levell'd her loftiest cities ? Where he trod,  
Famine pursued, and frown'd ;  
'Till Nature groaning round,  
Saw her rich realms transform'd to deserts dry ;  
While at his crowded prison's gate,  
Grasping the keys of fate,  
Stood stern Captivity.  
Vain man ! behold thy righteous doom ;  
Behold each neighb'ring monarch's tomb ;  
The trophied arch, the breathing bust,  
The laurel shades their sacred dust :  
While thou, vile out-cast, on this hostile plain,  
Moulder'st a vulgar corse, among the vulgar slain.

III. 1.

No trophied arch, no breathing bust,  
Shall dignify thy trampled dust :

REFERENCES.

2d Epode, *Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, &c.*  
ver. 16, 17, 18, 19.

3d Strophe, *Thou shalt not be joined to them in burial, &c.* ver. 20.

No laurel flourish o'er thy grave.  
 For why, proud king, thy ruthless hand  
 Hurl'd desolation o'er the land,  
 And crush'd the subject race, whom kings are born to save :  
 Eternal infamy shall blast thy name,  
 And all thy sons shall share their impious father's shame.

III. 2.

Rise, purple slaughter ! furious rise ;  
 Unfold the terror of thine eyes ;  
 Dart thy vindictive shafts around :  
 Let no strange land a shade afford,  
 No conquer'd nations call them lord ;  
 Nor let their cities rise to curse the goodly ground.  
 For thus JEHOVAH swears ; no name, no son,  
 No remnant shall remain of haughty Babylon.

III. 3.

Thus saith the righteous Lord :  
 My vengeance shall unsheath the flaming sword ;  
 O'er all thy realms my fury shall be pour'd.  
 Where yon proud city stood,  
 I'll spread the stagnant flood ;  
 And there the bittern in the sedge shall lurk,

REFERENCES.

3d Antistrophe, *Prepare slaughter for his children*, ver. 21, 22.  
 3d Epode, *Saith the Lord, I will also make it a possession for the bittern*, &c. ver. 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27.

Moaning with sullen strain :

While, sweeping o'er the plain,

Destruction ends her work.

Yes, on mine holy mountain's brow,

I'll crush this proud Assyrian foe.

The irrevocable word is spoke.

From Judah's neck the galling yoke

Spontaneous falls, she shines with wonted state ;

Thus by MYSELF I swear, and what I swear is fate.

ODE IX.

TO AN ÆOLUS'S HARP\*

SENT TO MISS SHEPHEARD.

YEs, magic Lyre ! now all complete  
Thy slender frame responsive rings ;  
While kindred notes, with undulation sweet,  
Accordant wake from all thy vocal strings.  
Go then to her, whose soft request  
Bad my blest hands thy form prepare :  
Ah go, and sweetly sooth her tender breast  
With many a warble wild, and artless air.  
For know, full oft, while o'er the mead  
Bright June extends her fragrant reign,  
The slumb'ring fair shall place thee near her head,  
To court the gales that cool the sultry plain.  
Then shall the sylphs, and sylphids bright,  
Mild genii all, to whose high care

NOTE.

\* This instrument was first invented by Kircher about the year 1649. See his *Musurgia Universalis, sive ars consoni et dissoni*, lib. ix. After having been neglected above a hundred years, it was again accidentally discovered by Mr. Oswald.

Her virgin charms are given, in circling flight  
Skim sportive round thee in the fields of air.

Some, flutt'ring through thy trembling strings,  
Shall catch the rich melodious spoil,  
And lightly brush thee with their purple wings

To aid the Zephyrs in their tuneful toil ;

While others check each ruder gale,

Expel rough Boreas from the sky,

Nor let a breeze its heaving breath exhale,

Save such as softly pant, and panting die.

Then, as thy swelling accents rise,

Fair Fancy, waking at the sound,

Shall paint bright visions on her raptur'd eyes,

And waft her spirits to enchanted ground ;

To myrtle groves, Elysian greens,

In which some fav'rite youth shall rove,

And meet, and lead her through the glittering scenes,

And all be music, extasy, and love.

ODE X.\*

FOR MUSIC.

IRREGULAR.

I.

Lo! where incumbent o'er the shade  
Rome's rav'ning eagle bows his beaked head ;  
Yet, while a moment fate affords,  
While yet a moment freedom stays,  
That moment, which outweighs  
Eternity's unmeasured hoards,  
Shall Mona's grateful bards employ  
To hymn their god-like hero to the sky.

II.

Radiant Ruler of the day,  
Pause upon thy orb sublime,  
Bid this awful moment stay,  
Bind it on the brow of time ;

NOTE.

\* When the dramatic poem of *Caractacus* was altered for theatrical representation in 1776, this dirge was added to be sung over the body of *Arviragus*. Being of the lyrical cast, the author found himself inclined to preserve it in the series of his *Odes*, published in 1797.

While Mona's trembling echoes sigh  
To strains, that thrill when heroes die.

III.

Hear our harps, in accents slow,  
Breathe the dignity of woe,  
Solemn notes that pant and pause,  
While the last majestic close  
In diapason deep is drown'd :  
Notes that Mona's harps should sound.

IV.

See our tears in sober shower,  
O'er this shrine of glory pour !  
Holy tears by virtue shed,  
That embalm the valiant dead ;  
In these our sacred song we steep :  
Tears that Mona's bards should weep.

V.

Radiant Ruler, hear us call  
Blessings on the god-like youth,  
Who dared to fight, who dared to fall,  
For Britain, freedom, and for truth.  
His dying groan, his parting sigh  
Was music for the gods on high ;  
'Twas Valour's hymn to Liberty.

VI.

Ring out, ye mortal strings !  
Answer, thou heavenly harp, instinct with spirit all,  
That o'er Andraustes' throne self-warbling swings.  
There where ten thousand spheres, in measured chime,  
Roll their majestic melodies along,  
Thou guidest the thundering song,  
Poised on thy jasper arch sublime.  
Yet shall thy heavenly accents deign  
To mingle with our mortal strain,  
And heaven and earth unite in chorus high,  
While freedom wafts her champion to the sky.



ODE XI.\*

**M**AJESTIC pile ! whose ample eye  
Surveys the rich variety  
    Of azure hill, and verdant vale ;  
Say, will thy echoing towers return  
The sighs, that, bending o'er her urn,  
    A Naiad heaves in yonder dale ?

The pitying Muse, who hears her moan,  
Smooths into song each gurgling groan,  
    And pleads the Nymph's and Nature's cause ;  
In vain, she cries, has simple taste  
The pride of formal art defaced,  
    Where late yon height of terras rose ;

Has vainly bad the lawn decline,  
And waved the pathway's easy line  
    Around the circuit of the grove,  
To catch, through every opening glade,  
That glimmering play of sun and shade,  
    Which peace and contemplation love.

NOTE.

\* Printed for the first time 1797.

Beauty in vain approved the toil,  
And hail'd the sovereign of the soil,  
    Her own and fancy's favour'd friend ;  
For see, at this ill-omen'd hour,  
Base art assumes his ancient power,  
    And bids yon distant mound ascend.

See, too, his tyrant grasp to fill,  
In silence swells the pensive rill,  
    That caroll'd sweet the vale along ;  
So swells the throbbing female breast,  
By wiles of faithless swain oppress'd,  
    When love forbids to speak her wrong.

Tell me, chaste Mistress of the Wave !  
If e'er thy rills refused to lave  
    The plain where now entrench'd they sleep ?  
Would not thy stream at Fancy's call,  
O'er crags she lifted, fret, and fall,  
    Through dells she shaded, purl, and creep ?

Yes, thou wert ever fond and free,  
To pour thy tinkling melody,  
    Sweet pratler, o'er thy pebbled floor ;  
Thy sisters, hid in neighb'ring caves,  
Would bring their tributary waves,  
    If genuine taste demanded more.

Why then does yon clay barrier rise ?  
Behold, and weep, ye lowering skies !  
    Ah rather join in vengeful shower :  
Hither your wat'ry phalanx lead,  
And, deeply deluging the mead,  
    Burst through the bound with thunder's roar.

So shall the Nymph, still fond and free  
To pour her tinkling melody,  
    Again her lucid charms diffuse :  
No more shall mean mechanic skill  
Dare to confine her liberal rill,  
    Foe to the Naiad and the Muse.

ODE XII.

TO THE NAVAL OFFICERS OF GREAT BRITAIN.

FEBRUARY 11, 1779.\*

I. 1.

HENCE to thy Hell! thou Fiend accurst,  
Of Sin's incestuous brood, the worst  
Whom to pale Death the spectre bore: †  
DETRACTION hence! 'tis Truth's command;  
She launches, from her seraph hand,  
The shaft that strikes thee to th' infernal shore.  
Old ENGLAND'S Genius leads her on  
To vindicate his darling Son,  
Whose fair and veteran fame  
Thy venom'd tongue had dar'd defile:  
The Goddess comes, and all the isle  
Feels the warm influence of her heav'nly flame.

NOTES.

\* Written immediately after the trial of Admiral KEPPEL, and then printed.

† Alluding to the well-known allegory of SIN and DEATH, in the second Book of *Paradise Lost*.

I. 2.

But chief in those, their country's pride,  
Ordain'd, with steady helm, to guide  
    The floating bulwarks of her reign,  
It glows with unremitting ray,  
Bright as the orb that gives the day ;  
Corruption spreads her murky mist in vain :  
To virtue, valour, glory true,  
They keep their radiant prize in view  
    Ambition's sterling aim ;  
They know that titles, stars, and strings,  
Bestow'd by kings on slaves of kings,  
Are light as air when weigh'd with honest fame.

I. 3.

Hireling courtiers, venal peers  
    View them with fastidious frown,  
Yet the Muse's smile is theirs,  
    Theirs her amaranthine crown.  
Yes, gallant Train, on your unsullied brows,  
    She sees the genuine English spirit shine,  
Warm from a heart where ancient honour glows,  
    That scorns to bend the knee at Interest's shrine.  
    Lo ! at your poet's call,  
To give prophetic fervor to his strain,  
Forth from the mighty bosom of the main  
    A giant Deity ascends :

Down his broad breast his hoary honours fall ;  
He wields the trident of th' Atlantic vast ;  
An awful calm around his pomp is cast,  
O'er many a league the glassy sleep extends.  
He speaks ; and distant thunder, murmuring round,  
In long-drawn volley rolls a symphony profound.

II. 1.

Ye thunders cease ! the voice of Heav'n  
Enough proclaims the terrors given  
To me, the Spirit of the Deep ;  
Tempests are mine ; from shore to shore  
I bid my billows when to roar,  
Mine the wild whirlwind's desolating sweep.  
But meek and placable I come  
To deprecate Britannia's doom,  
And snatch her from her fate ;  
Ev'n from herself I mean to save  
My sister sov'reign of the wave ;  
A voice immortal never warns too late.

II. 2.

Queen of the Isles ! with empire crown'd,  
Only to spread fair freedom round,  
Wide as my waves could waft thy name ;  
Why did thy cold reluctant heart  
Refuse that blessing to impart,  
Deaf to great Nature's universal claim ?

Why rush, through my indignant tide,  
To stain thy hands with parricide?  
—Ah, answer not the strain!  
Thy wasted wealth, thy widow's sighs,  
Thy half-repentant embassies  
Bespeak thy cause unblest, thy councils vain.

II. 3.

Sister sov'reign of the wave!  
Turn from this ill-omen'd war:  
Turn to where the truly brave  
Will not blush thy wrath to bear;  
Swift on th' insulting Gaul, thy native foe,  
For he is Freedom's, let that wrath be hurl'd;  
To his perfidious ports direct thy prow,  
Arm every bark, be every sail unfurl'd;  
Seize this triumphant hour,  
When, bright as gold from the refining flame,  
Flows the clear current of thy **KEPPBL'S** fame.  
Give to the hero's full command  
Th' imperial ensigns of thy naval power;  
So shall his own bold auspices prevail,  
Nor Fraud's insidious wiles, nor Envy pale  
Arrest the force of his victorious band;  
The Gaul subdued, fraternal strife shall cease,  
And firm, on Freedom's base, be fixt an empire's peace.

ODE XIII.\*

WHILE scattering from her seraph wings  
The heav'nly-tinctur'd dew  
Whence ev'ry earthly blessing springs,  
Fair HOPE o'er Albion flew,  
She heard from that superb domain,  
Where Art has dar'd to fix his reign,  
Mid shaggy rocks, and mountains wild,  
A female vot'ry breathe her prayer.  
She clos'd her plumes, she hush'd the air,  
And thus replied in accents mild :

“ What tender warblings to my ear,  
On zephyrs born, aspire,  
To draw me from my sapphire sphere,  
Charm'd by her magic lyre?  
I come ; she wakes the willing strings,  
With careless grace her hand she flings  
The soft symphonious chords among ;  
Nor ever on the list'ning plain,  
Since the sweet Lesbian tun'd her strain,  
Was heard a more melodious song.

NOTE.

\* Printed 1797, from an enlarged and corrected copy.



“ But why to me, fair Syren, wake  
     The supplicating lay ?  
 Is it in HOPE’s vain power to make  
     Thy gaiety more gay ?  
 O rather bid me bear my balm  
 Some sable captive’s woe to calm,  
     Who bows beneath Oppression’s weight ;  
 Or sooth those scorn’d, yet faithful few  
 (For much they need my lenient dew)  
     That tremble for Britannia’s fate.\*

“ My mirror but reflects the gleam  
     Of distant happiness ;  
 They scorn to court a flatt’ring dream,  
     Who present joy possess.  
 The feather’d sov’reign of the sky,  
 Who glories with undazzled eye  
     To meet the sun’s meridian rays,  
 Say, will he quit his radiant height,  
 When floating in that sea of light,  
     To flutter in a meteor’s blaze ?

“ Art thou not She whom fav’ring Fate  
     In all her splendor drest,  
 To shew in how supreme a state  
     A mortal might be blest ?

NOTE.

\* This marks the time when this Ode was written, viz. towards the conclusion of the American War.

Bade beauty, elegance, and health,  
Patrician birth, patrician wealth,  
    Their blessings on her darling shed ;  
Bade Hymen of that generous race  
Who Freedom's fairest annals grace  
    Give to thy love th' illustrious head.

“ Is there a boon to mortals dear  
    Her fondness has not lent,  
Ere I could whisper in thy ear  
    ‘ The blessing will be sent ? ’  
Obsequious have I e'er denied  
To wait attendant at thy side,  
    Prepar'd each shade of fear to chace.  
To antedate each coming joy,  
And ere the transient bliss could cloy,  
    To bid a livelier take its place.

“ Nay (blushing I confess the truth)  
    I've hover'd o'er thy head  
Ev'n when thy too compliant youth,  
    By wayward fashion led,  
Has left the Muses and thy lyre,  
To mix in that tumultuous choir,  
    Of purblind Chance the vot'rys pale,  
Who round his midnight altars stand,  
And, as the glittering heaps expand,  
    His power with unblest orgies hail.

“ There Cunning lours, there Envy pines,  
    There Avarice veils his face,  
Ev’n Beauty’s eager eye resigns  
    Its mildly-melting grace ;  
There, as his lots the dæmon throws,  
Each breast with expectation glows,  
    While heedless Thou of loss or gain,  
Seest from thy hand that treasure flown  
That might have hush’d an orphan’s moan,  
    Or smooth’d the rugged bed of pain.

“ O then I spread my wings to fly  
    Back to my sapphire sphere,  
Resolv’d to leave no ray to dry  
    Thy morn’s repentant tear ;  
But when that bright atonement falls,  
The sight my resolution palls,  
    I haste the liquid gem to save.  
So still, fair Syren, shall my power  
Console thee through life’s varying hour,  
    Nor will I quit thee at the grave.

“ O then may white-rob’d Faith appear,  
    With glowing Charity,  
To spread with mine their wings, and bear  
    Their vot’ry to the sky.  
Then mingling with our Seraph train,  
Thy lyre may wake a loftier strain,

Where Rapture hymns th' eternal throne;  
Where to desire is to possess,  
No wish for more, no fear for less,  
Where Certainty and I are one."

ODE XIV. \*

TO THE HON. WILLIAM PITT.

1782.

Μὴ νῦν, ὅτι φθονεραὶ  
Θνατῶν φρένας ἀμφικρέμανται ἰλπίδες,  
Μήτ' ἀρετᾶν ποτε σιγάτω πατρῶων,  
Μηδὲ τέσδ' ὕμνευς. PINDAR, Isthm. Ode II.

I.

'TIS May's meridian reign; yet EURUS cold  
Forbids each shrinking thorn its leaves unfold,  
Or hang with silver buds her rural throne;  
No primrose shower from her green lap she throws,†  
No daisy, violet, or cowslip blows,  
And FLORA weeps her fragrant offspring gone.  
Hoar frost arrests the genial dew;  
To wake, to warble, and to woo,  
No linnnet calls his drooping love:  
Shall then the Poet strike the lyre,  
When mute are all the feather'd quire,  
And Nature fails to warm the Syrens of the grove?

NOTES.

\* Printed separately in May, 1782.

† This expression is taken from MILTON's song on May Morning, to which this stanza in general alludes, and the 4th verse in the next.

II.

He shall: for what the sullen spring denies  
 The orient beam of virtuous youth supplies;  
 That moral dawn be his inspiring flame.  
 Beyond the dancing radiance of the east  
 Thy glory, Son of CHATHAM! fires his breast,  
 And, proud to celebrate thy vernal fame,  
 Hark, from his lyre the strain ascends,  
 Which but to Freedom's fav'rite friends  
 That lyre disdains to sound.  
 Hark and approve as did thy Sire\*  
 The lays which once with kindred fire  
 His Muse in Attic mood, made MONA's oaks rebound.

III.

Long silent since, save when, in KEPPEL's name,  
 Detraction, murd'ring Britain's naval fame,  
 Rous'd into sounds of scorn th' indignant string. †  
 But now, replenish'd with a richer theme,  
 The vase of Harmony shall pour its stream,  
 Fann'd by free Fancy's rainbow-tinctur'd wing.  
 Thy country too shall hail the song,  
 Her echoing heart the notes prolong,

NOTES.

\* The Poem of CARACTACUS was read in MS. by the late Earl of CHATHAM, who honoured it with an approbation which the Author is here proud to record.

† See Ode to the NAVAL OFFICERS of Great Britain, written 1779.

While they alone with envy sigh,\*  
Whose rancour to thy parent dead  
Aim'd, ere his funeral rites were paid,  
With vain vindictive rage to starve his progeny.

IV.

From earth and these the Muse averts her view,  
To meet in yonder sea of ether blue  
A beam, to which the blaze of noon is pale ;  
In purpling circles now the glory spreads,  
A host of angels now unveil their heads,  
While Heav'n's own music triumphs on the gale.  
Ah see, two white-rob'd Seraphs lead  
Thy Father's venerable shade ;  
He bends from yonder cloud of gold,  
While they, the ministers of light,  
Bear from his breast a mantle bright,  
And with the Heav'n-wove robe thy youthful limbs enfold.

V.

“ Receive this mystic gift, my Son !” he cries,  
“ And, for so wills the Sov'reign of the Skies,  
“ With this receive, at ALBION's anxious hour,  
“ A double portion of my patriot zeal,  
“ Active to spread the fire it dar'd to feel  
“ Through raptur'd Senates, and with awful power

NOTE.

\* See the Motto from PINDAR.

“ From the full fountain of the tongue  
“ To roll the rapid tide along,  
“ Till a whole nation caught the flame.  
“ So on thy Sire shall Heav’n bestow  
“ A blessing TULLY fail’d to know,  
“ And redolent in thee diffuse thy Father’s fame.

VI.

“ Nor thou, ingenious Boy! that fame despise  
“ Which lives and spreads abroad in heav’n’s pure eyes,  
“ The last best energy of noble mind,\*  
“ Revere thy Father’s shade; like him disdain  
“ The tame, the timid, temporizing train,  
Awake to self, to social interest blind:  
“ Young as thou art, occasion calls,  
“ Thy country’s scale or mounts or falls  
“ As thou and thy compatriots strive;  
“ Scarce is the fatal moment past  
“ That trembling ALBION deem’d her last:  
“ O knit the union firm, and bid an empire live.

VII.

“ Proceed, and vindicate fair Freedom’s claim,  
“ Give life, give strength, give substance to her name;

NOTE.

\* In allusion to a fine and well-known passage in Milton’s *Lycidas*.



“ The legal Rights of Man with fraud contest,  
 “ Yes, snatch them from Corruption’s baleful power,  
 “ Who dares, in day’s broad eye, those rights devour,  
 “ While prelates bow, and bless the harpy feast.  
 “ If foil’d at first, resume thy course,  
 “ Rise strengthen’d with Antæan force,  
 “ So shall thy toil in conquest end.  
 “ Let others doat on meaner things,  
 “ On broider’d stars, and azure strings,  
 “ To claim thy Sov’rign’s love, be thou thy country’s  
 “ friend.”\*

VARIATION.

\* The concluding line in this Ode, when first printed, ran thus:

“ Be thine the Muse’s wreath ; be thou the *people’s friend*.”

But when it was recollected, that very soon after its publication, a person, too well known in the political world, usurped the name of *friend of the people*, for no better reason than that of promoting his own success in an election contest at Westminster, it will not be wondered at, that the Author should now choose to alter that conclusion.

This he has done, not only on *moral* and *prudential*, but, he trusts, also on constitutional principles; as he firmly believes, that no Englishman will *now* (he writes at the conclusion of the year 1795) honour that person with such an appellation, except the very few, who think the people of England and an English mob, synonymous terms.

ODE XV.\*

SECULAR.

November the Fifth, MDCCLXXXVIII.

I.

**I**T is not Age, creative Fancy's foe,  
Foe to the finer feelings of the soul,  
Shall dare forbid the lyric rapture flow :  
Scorning its chill control,  
He, at the vernal morn of youth,  
Who breathed to liberty and truth,  
Fresh incense from his votive lyre,  
In life's autumnal eve, again  
Shall, at their shrine, resume the strain,  
And sweep the veteran chords with renovated fire.

II.

Warm to his own, and to his country's breast,  
Twice fifty brilliant years the theme have borne,  
And each, through all its varying seasons, blest  
By that auspicious morn,

NOTE.

\* First published on the day of its date.

Which gilding NASSAU's patriot prow,  
Gave Britain's anxious eye to know  
    The source whence now her blessings spring ;  
She saw him from that prow descend,  
And in the hero, hail'd the friend :  
A name, when Britain speaks, that dignifies her KING.

III.

In solemn state she led him to the throne  
    Whence bigot zeal and lawless power had fled,  
Where Justice fix'd the abdicated crown  
    On his victorious head.  
Was there an angel in the sky,  
That glow'd not with celestial joy,  
    When freedom in her native charms,  
Descended from her throne of light,  
On eagle plumes, to bless the rite,  
Recall'd by Britain's voice, restored by NASSAU's arms.

IV.

Since then, triumphant on the car of time,  
    The sister years in gradual train have roll'd,  
And seen the goddess from her sphere sublime,  
    The sacred page unfold,  
Inscribed by her's and NASSAU's hands,  
On which the hallow'd charter stands,  
    That bids Britannia's sons be free ;  
And, as they pass'd, each white-robed year

Has sung to her responsive sphere,  
Hail to the charter'd rights of British liberty !

V.

Still louder lift the soul-expanding strain,  
Ye future years ! while, from her starry throne  
Again she comes to magnify her reign,  
And make the world her own.  
Her fire e'en France presumes to feel,  
And half unsheaths the patriot steel,  
Enough the monarch to dismay,  
Whoe'er, with rebel pride, withdraws  
His own allegiance from the laws  
That guard the people's rights, that rein the sovereign's  
sway.

VI.

Hark ! how from either India's sultry bound,  
From regions girded by the burning zone,  
Her all-attentive ear, with sigh profound  
Has heard the captive moan :  
Has heard, and ardent in the cause  
Of all, that free by Nature's laws,  
The avarice of her sons enthrals ;  
She comes, by Truth and Mercy led,  
And, bending her benignant head,  
Thus on the seraph pair in suppliant strain she calls :

VII.

“ Long have I lent to my Britannia’s hands  
That trident which controls the willing sea,  
And bade her circulate to distant lands  
Each bliss derived from me.  
Shall then her commerce spread the sail,  
For gain accursed, and court the gale,  
Her throne, her sov’rign to disgrace ;  
Daring (what will not Commerce dare !)  
Beyond the ruthless waste of war,  
To deal destruction round, and thin the human race ?

VIII.

“ Proclaim it not before the eternal throne  
Of him, the sire of universal love ;  
But wait till all my sons your influence own,  
Ye envoys from above !  
O wait, at this precarious hour,  
When in the pendent scale of power  
My rights and Nature’s trembling lie ;  
Do thou, sweet Mercy ! touch the beam,  
Till lightly, as the feather’d dream  
Ascends the earthly dross of selfish policy.

IX.

“ Do thou, fair Truth ! as did thy master mild,  
Who, fill’d with all the power of godhead, came

To purify the souls, by guilt defiled,  
    With Faith's celestial flame ;  
Tell them, 'tis Heaven's benign decree  
That all, of Christian liberty  
    The peace-inspiring gale should breathe.  
May then that nation hope to claim  
The glory of the Christian name,  
That loads fraternal tribes with bondage worse than death ?

X.

“ Tell them, they vainly grace, with festive joy,  
    The day that freed them from Oppression's rod,  
At Slavery's mart who barter and who buy  
    The image of their God.  
But peace !—their conscience feels the wrong ;  
From Britain's congregated tongue,  
    Repentant breaks the choral lay,  
“ Not unto us, indulgent Heaven,  
“ In partial stream be freedom given,  
“ But pour her treasures wide, and guard with legal sway ?”

ODE XVI.\*

PALINODIA.

I. 1.

SAY did I err, chaste Liberty !  
When warm with youthful fire,  
I gave the vernal fruits to thee  
That ripen'd on my lyre ?  
When, round thy twin-born sister's † shrine,  
I taught the flowers of verse to twine  
And blend in one their fresh perfume ;  
Forbade them, vagrant and disjoin'd,  
To give to every wanton wind  
Their fragrance and their bloom ?

I. 2.

Or did I err, when, free to choose  
'Mid fabling Fancy's themes,  
I led my voluntary Muse  
To groves and haunted streams ;  
Disdain'd to take that gainful road,  
Which many a courtly bard had trod,

NOTES.

\* Written in March, 1794, and first printed 1797.

† Independency, see Ode, p. 38.

And aim'd but at self-planted bays ?  
I swept my lyre enough for me,  
If what that lyre might warble free  
My free-born friends might praise.

I. 3.

And art thou mute ! or does the fiend that rides  
Yon sulphurous tube, by tigers drawn,  
Where seas of blood roll their increasing tides  
Beneath his wheels while myriads groan,  
Does he with voice of thunder make reply :  
“ I am the Genius of stern Liberty,  
“ Adore me as thy genuine choice ;  
“ Know, where I hang with wreaths my sacred tree,  
“ Power undivided, just equality  
“ Are born at my creative voice ?”

II. 1.

Avaunt, abhorr'd Democracy !  
O for Ithuriel's spear !  
To show to Party's jaundiced eye  
The fiend she most should fear,  
To turn her from the infernal sight  
To where, array'd in robes of light,  
True Liberty on Seraph wing  
Descends to shed that blessing rare,  
Of equal rights an equal share  
To People, Peers, and King.\*

\* See English Garden, Book IV. v. 685, &c.



II. 2.

To her alone I rais'd my strain,  
On her centennial day,  
Fearless that age should chill the vein  
She nourish'd with her ray.  
And what, if glowing at the theme,  
Humanity in vivid dream,  
Gave to my mind impatient Gaul  
(Ah! flattering dream, dismiss'd by fate  
Too quickly through the ivory gate)  
Freed from despotic thrall?

II. 3.

When Ruin, heaving his gigantic mace,  
(Call'd to the deed by Reason's voice),  
Crush'd, proud Bastile! thy turrets to their base,  
Was it not virtue to rejoice?  
That power alone, whose all-combining eye  
Beholds, what he ordains, futurity,  
Could that tremendous truth reveal,  
That, ere six suns had round the zodiac roll'd  
Their beams, astonished Europe should behold  
All Gallia, one immense Bastile?\*

III. 1.

Is it not virtue to repine,  
When thus transform'd the scene?

\* There were in the prisons of Paris alone, when this was written, above 6000 prisoners.

“ Ah ! no,” replied, in strain divine,  
 The heaven-descending Queen.  
 And, as she sung, she shot a ray,  
 Mild as the orient dawn of May,  
 Enlight’ning while it calm’d my brain :  
 “ Now purg’d, my Son ! from error, own  
 “ My blessings ne’er were meant to crown  
 “ The vicious, or the vain.

III. 2.

“ ’Tis only those of purer clay\*  
 “ From sensual dross refined,  
 “ In whom the passions pleas’d obey  
 “ The God within the mind,†  
 “ Who share my delegated aid,  
 “ Through Wisdom’s golden mean convey’d  
 “ From the first source of sov’rign good :  
 “ All else to horrid license tends,  
 “ Springs from vindictive pride, and ends  
 “ In anarchy and blood.

\* Cui meliore Luto finxit præcordia Titan. So MILTON in his 12th Sonnet, speaking of liberty, says, “ But who loves that, must first be wise and good.”

† Mr. Pope uses this Platonic phrase for conscience.—See Essay on Man, Ep. II. p. 204, with Warburton’s note upon it, where the learned critic says justly that it admits a double meaning.—It is in its latter practical, or rather Christian sense, that I here employ it, to convey the important truth delivered by St. Paul, “ where the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”

III. 3.

- “ Had France possess'd a sober patriot band,  
“ True to their own, and nation's weal,  
“ Such as, fair ALBION, bless'd thy favour'd land,  
“ When NASSAU came thy rights to seal ;  
“ She might—but why compare such wide extremes,  
“ Why seek for reason in delirious dreams ?  
“ Rather consign to exile and to shame  
“ Her coward princes, her luxurious peers,  
“ Who fed the hell-born hydra with their fears,  
“ That now usurps my hallow'd name.”

**ODE ON WISDOM;**  
**OR, THE**  
**TWENTY-EIGHTH CHAPTER**  
**OF THE**  
**BOOK OF JOB**  
**ATTEMPTED IN LYRICAL VERSE,**  
**AND ADDRESSED TO THE**  
**RIGHT REVEREND RICHARD,**  
**LORD BISHOP OF WORCESTER.**



TO THE  
RIGHT REVEREND THE  
BISHOP OF WORCESTER, &c.

MY LORD,

HAVING lately examined the mysterious Book of Job, with as much attention as a person ignorant of the original language may be allowed capable of exerting, the whole of the 28th chapter appeared to me peculiarly obscure, and little, if at all, connected with either what went before, or succeeded it. In short, I thought it a quite different species of composition, and on further consideration, pronounced it to be an Ode of the most perfect lyrical form, diversified in its imagery, bold in its transitions, and rising by rapid gradations, in its conclusion, to the sublime. Impressed with this idea, I conceived that it might be versified in the Pindaric mode of strophe, antistrophe, and epode, a method which, your Lordship may remember, I undertook near fifty years ago under your critical auspices, with part of the 14th chapter of Isaiah. You may remember also, that certain critics at the time, imagining that I did it with a view of rivaling Dr. LOUTH's Alcaic version of the same passage, thought proper to decry it, though nothing was more foreign to my intention, my sole aim being to show, that, whether it was rendered in the Horatian or Pindaric

manner, the lyrical beauties of the sacred original would appear equally manifest. In this second attempt, however, I feel myself perfectly secure from such imputation; for I find, that the poetical Professor himself has almost entirely overlooked the passage in his celebrated Prelections, and not said a single word of its lyrical structure and excellence. I therefore venture to conclude, that whether the path of Hebrew literature be narrow or broad, those who have hitherto paced in it, with the express view of arranging its poetical flowers into *genus* and *species*, have overlooked one of its most beautiful plants, which with them (to carry on the botanical metaphor) has hitherto been a NON-DESCRIPT.

The private copy of my Version, which I now address to your Lordship, I flatter myself, may tend somewhat to amuse your venerable leisure in a way as well suited to your character, as an episcopal critic, as this manner of treating the sacred original has been an agreeable occupation to me, as a clerical poet.

Believe me to be, my Lord, with true respect,

Your Lordship's

affectionately devoted servant,

W. MASON.

*Aston, March 6, 1797.*

ODE ON WISDOM.\*

I. 1.

DEEP in the secret veins of earth,  
Where each metallic ore has birth,  
    Silver and gold for ages sleep ;  
Blue sapphires there by rocks are veil'd,  
There crystal springs in grottos seal'd,  
Unheard, unseen, their useless vigils keep :  
But man, by fortitude and vigour led,  
    Can cleave the rocks, thro' mountains force his way,  
Drag the bright sapphires from their murky bed,  
    And bid them rival the meridian ray.  
Thro' clefts he bursts, can teach the stream to glide,  
Direct, augment, control its fertilizing tide.

NOTE.

\* Printed 1797, and now first published. Ed.

The whole 28th chapter of the book of Job, when separated from the context, is a poetical illustration of this truth, "that man is capable of making great advances in the discovery of nature, but as to prying into the secrets of Providence in the government of the world, which is here emphatically called the WISDOM OF GOD, that is above the reach of all creatures." The first strophe, in the above metrical version, begins at the first verse: "*Surely there is a vein for silver and a place for gold;*" and proceeds to the 7th.



I. 2.

He can those depths profound descry,  
 Where never pierced the vulture's eye,  
     Can those tremendous caves descend,  
 Where fiercest lions dare not prowl,  
 Nor ere was heard the tiger's growl;  
 Can make all nature to his prowess bend:  
 But did this bold, this all-pervading man  
     That dread mysterious region ere explore,  
 Where Wisdom dwells? Does he presume to scan  
     The place, where she exerts her sacred power?  
 What if he ask the deep abyss below,  
 If in its realm she dwells? its Genius answers, "No!"

I. 3.

What if to ocean's caves he hies,  
     In hope to find the guest?  
 The Monarch of the waves replies,  
     " She sleeps not on my breast."  
 Vain then the hope! the fleet aerial race,  
 Born on sublimest plume, her mansion fail to trace.

REFERENCES.

First antistrophe, ver. 7. *There is a path which no fowl knoweth, and which the vulture's eye hath not seen, &c.*

Ver. 12. *But where shall wisdom be found, &c. to verse 14.*

First epode, ver. 14. *And the sea saith it is not in me.*

Ver. 21. *It is kept close from the fowls of the air.* Note, this is the only slight transposition of the text.

II. 1.

O could he seize her form divine !  
 Beyond the gold of Ophir's mine,  
     The sapphire's beam, the diamond's blaze,  
 Beyond the Ethiop's pearly store,  
 Beyond each gem, the sculptor's power  
 Could teach to sparkle on his richest vase,  
 Her charms he'd prize ! yet Death, destructive king,  
     Who erst to chaos made despotic claim,  
 Ere from the void he saw creation spring,  
     Remembers whilom that he heard her name,  
 And knows that God, to whom all space is known,  
 Call'd Wisdom to himself, and rais'd her to his throne.

II. 2.

'Twas then in solemn synod high,  
 Or ere he plann'd the galaxy,  
     Ere through the heavens one planet roll'd,  
 With her he fix'd all Nature's laws,  
     Creation's first and final cause,  
 And bade her hands th' ideal chart unfold.

REFERENCES.

Second strophe, ver. 15. *It cannot be gotten for gold, &c.* to ver. 24.

Second antistrophe, from ver. 24 to 28. But here the version of Albert Schultens is rather followed, than that of our Bible.

She saw this vast material orb appear,  
Bless'd the first pause of elemental strife,  
When earth, air, water, fire forgot to war,  
And all was harmony, and light, and life ;  
Saw man produced, while, thund'ring from on high,  
The Eternal's awful voice proclaim'd his destiny :

II. 3.

“ Offspring of matter and of mind !  
“ Know, Mortal, know, in age and youth  
“ Thy proudest talents are confin'd  
“ To mark this one important truth,  
“ That all of wisdom, to thy race allow'd,  
“ Is to refrain from sin, and venerate thy God !”

REFERENCES.

Second antistrophe continued, as before noted.

Second epode, ver. 28. *And unto man he said, Behold, to fear the Lord, that is wisdom, and to depart from evil is understanding.*

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**ELEGIES.**

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ELEGY I.  
TO A YOUNG NOBLEMAN  
LEAVING THE UNIVERSITY.

ERE yet, ingenuous Youth, thy steps retire  
From Cam's smooth margin, and the peaceful vale,  
Where Science call'd thee to her studious quire,  
And met thee musing in her cloisters pale ;  
Oh ! let thy friend (and may he boast the name)  
Breathe from his artless reed one parting lay ;  
A lay like this thy early virtues claim,  
And this let voluntary friendship pay.  
Yet, know, the time arrives, the dangerous time,  
When all those virtues, opening now so fair,  
Transplanted to the world's tempestuous clime,  
Must learn each passion's boist'rous breath to bear.  
There, if Ambition, pestilent and pale,  
Or Luxury should taint their vernal glow ;  
If cold Self-interest, with her chilling gale,  
Should blast the unfolding blossoms ere they blow ;  
If mimic hues, by Art, or Fashion spread,  
Their genuine, simple colouring should supply,  
Oh ! with them may these laureate honours fade ;  
And with them (if it can) my friendship die.

Then do not blame, if, though thyself inspire,  
 Cautious I strike the panegyric string ;  
 The Muse full oft pursues a meteor fire,  
 And, vainly vent'rous, soars on waxen wing.  
 Too actively awake at Friendship's voice,  
 The poet's bosom pours the fervent strain,  
 Till sad reflection blames the hasty choice,  
 And oft invokes Oblivion's aid in vain.  
 Call we the shade of POPE, from that blest bower  
 Where throned he sits, with many a tuneful sage ;  
 Ask, if he ne'er bemoans that hapless hour  
 When ST. JOHN's name \* illumined Glory's page ?  
 Ask, if the wretch, who dared his mem'ry stain,  
 Ask, if his Country's, his Religion's foe  
 Deserved the meed that MARLBRO' fail'd to gain,  
 The deathless meed, he only could bestow ?  
 The bard will tell thee, the misguided praise  
 Clouds the celestial sunshine of his breast ;  
 Even now, repentant of his erring lays,  
 He heaves a sigh amid the realms of rest.  
 If POPE through friendship fail'd, indignant view,  
 Yet pity, DRYDEN ; hark, whene'er he sings,  
 How Adulation drops her courtly dew  
 On titled rhymers and inglorious kings.

## NOTE.

- \* Alluding to this couplet of Mr. POPE's,  
 To CATO VIRGIL paid one honest line,  
 O let my country's friends *illumine* mine.

See, from the depths of his exhaustless mine,  
 His glittering stores the tuneful spendthrift throws ;  
 Where fear, or interest bids, behold they shine ;  
 Now grace a CROMWELL'S, now a CHARLES'S brows.  
 Born with too generous, or too mean a heart,  
 DRYDEN ! in vain to thee those stores were lent :  
 Thy sweetest numbers but a trifling art ;  
 Thy strongest diction idly eloquent.  
 The simplest lyre, if truth directs its lays,  
 Warbles a melody ne'er heard from thine :  
 Not to disgust with false, or venal praise,  
 Was PARNELL'S modest fame, and may be mine.  
 Go then, my Friend, nor let thy candid breast  
 Condemn me, if I check the plausible string ;  
 Go to the wayward world ; complete the rest ;  
 Be, what the purest Muse would wish to sing.  
 Be still thyself ; that open path of truth,  
 Which led thee here, let manhood firm pursue ;  
 Retain the sweet simplicity of youth,  
 And, all thy virtue dictates, dare to do.  
 Still scorn, with conscious pride, the mask of Art ;  
 On Vice's front let fearful Caution lower,  
 And teach the diffident, discreeter part  
 Of knaves that plot, and fools that fawn for power.  
 So, round thy brow when Age's honours spread,  
 When Death's cold hand unstrings thy MASON'S lyre,  
 When the green turf lies lightly on his head,  
 Thy worth shall some superior bard inspire :



He, to the amplest bounds of Time's domain,  
On Rapture's plume shall give thy name to fly;  
For trust, with reverence trust this Sabine strain : \*  
“ The Muse forbids the virtuous man to die.”

Written in 1753.

\* — Dignum laude virum  
Musa vetat mori.

HORACE.

## ELEGY II.

ADDRESSED TO

MISS PELHAM ON THE DEATH OF HER  
FATHER.\*

DEIGN, mournful Maid, while o'er yon sacred bier  
Thy streaming eyes with duteous sorrows flow ;  
Deign, mournful Maid, to lend a list'ning ear  
To strains, that swell with sympathetic woe.  
Attend that Muse, who late in happier hour  
Heard thy soft voice its tuneful pow'rs employ,  
Where D'ARCY call'd to Chiswick's social bower  
Mild mirth, and polish'd ease, and decent joy.

## NOTE.

\* He died March 6th, 1754. This Poem was presented to her soon after. At the very beginning of that month the Lady had been with a select party at a small villa in Chiswick, then rented by the Earl of HOLDERNESSE. The Author was, at the time, advised by several of his friends, to publish it; but an Ode, written by Mr. GARRICK on the same subject (see Dodsley's Miscellany, Vol. IV. page 198,) had got the start of him. He therefore retained it in manuscript, being by this time sufficiently apprized, that a poem, whose merit rested chiefly on picturesque imagery, and what is termed pure (or mere) poetry, was not calculated to vie, in point of popularity, with what was written in a plainer and less figurative mode, and conveyed in a more familiar style and stanza.

First published 1797.

How did bleak Winter smooth his rugged frown !

What genial Zephyrs fann'd each budding spray !  
How glow'd the Sun, as if in haste to crown

The sullen brows of March with wreaths of May !  
Ah ! did we think, while on thy warbling strain

Our rapt attention hung with mute delight,  
That fell disease, that agonizing pain,

That Death then sail'd upon the wings of night,  
To strike that stroke, which not thy breast alone,

But ev'ry Briton's honest heart must rend,  
At which a nation's tears must join thy own,

And, whilst you wept a father, weep a friend ?  
Yet such th' irrevocable doom of Jove.

Let then that Muse, who shar'd thy happier hour,  
Now lead thee pensive to the cypress grove,

Where pansies spring, and each funereal flower.  
There, while thy tender hand, his grave to strew,

The modest snow-drop's vernal silver bears,  
The violet sad of pallid purple hue,

The crocus glist'ning with the morn's first tears ;  
My bolder arm shall crop the laureat shade ;

By me the olive and the palm be borne,  
And from the British oak's majestic head

A civic wreath for his illustrious urn.

But see ! while in the solemn task we join,

Soft gleams of lustre tremble through the grove,  
And sacred airs of minstrelsy divine

Are harp'd around, and flutt'ring pinions move.

Ah, hark ! a voice, to which the vocal rill,  
 The lark's extatic harmony is rude ;  
 Distant it swells with many a holy trill,  
 Now breaks wide warbling from yon orient cloud !  
 " Rise, Patriot Shade, on seraph wing upborn !  
 " Behold we waft thee to the realms of rest !  
 " Glory is thine, and Heav'n's eternal morn ;  
 " Ascend and share thy blessings with the blest.  
 " Whoe'er on earth, with conscious honour dar'd  
 " Beyond the flight of these inglorious days,  
 " Lords of themselves, here find their bright reward ;  
 " And these shall crown thee with congenial rays.  
 " Whoe'er, through private life's domestic scene,  
 " Taught social love to spread its cheerful reign,  
 " Friends of mankind, here bathe in joys serene,  
 " And these shall hail thee 'mid their gentle train.  
 " The few, who bright with public virtue shone,  
 " Who shot the beams of peace from land to land,  
 " Fathers of countries, round the sapphire throne  
 " Shall bow, and welcome PELHAM to their band.  
 " Rise, Patriot Shade ! on seraph wing upborn,  
 " Behold we waft thee to the realms of rest !  
 " Glory is thine, and Heav'n's eternal morn ;  
 " Ascend and share thy blessings with the blest !"

### ELEGY III.

WRITTEN IN THE GARDEN OF A FRIEND.

WHILE o'er my head this laurel-woven bower  
Its arch of glittering verdure wildly flings,  
Can fancy slumber? can the tuneful power,  
That rules my lyre, neglect her wonted strings?  
No; if the blighting east deform'd the plain,  
If this gay bank no balmy sweets exhal'd,  
Still should the grove re-echo to my strain,  
And friendship prompt the theme, where beauty fail'd.  
For he, whose careless art this foliage drest,  
Who bade these twisting braids of woodbine bend,  
He first, with truth and virtue, taught my breast  
Where best to choose, and best to fix a friend.  
How well does Mem'ry note the golden day,  
What time, reclined in Marg'ret's studious glade,  
My mimic reed first tuned the Dorian lay,\*  
"Unseen, unheard, beneath an hawthorn shade?"

#### NOTE.

\* *MUSEUS*, the first poem in this collection, written while the Author was a scholar of St. John's College in Cambridge. See page 15.

'Twas there we met ; the Muses hail'd the hour ;  
 The same desires, the same ingenuous arts  
 Inspired us both ; we own'd, and blest the power  
 That join'd at once our studies, and our hearts.  
 Oh ! since those days, when Science spread the feast,  
 When emulative youth its relish lent,  
 Say, has one genuine joy e'er warm'd my breast ?  
 Enough ; if joy was his, be mine content.  
 To thirst for praise his temperate youth forbore ;  
 He fondly wish'd not for a poet's name ;  
 Much did he love the Muse, but quiet more,  
 And, though he might command, he slighted Fame.  
 Hither, in manhood's prime, he wisely fled  
 From all that folly, all that pride approves ;  
 To this soft scene a tender partner led ;  
 This laurel shade was witness to their loves.  
 " Begone," he cry'd, " Ambition's air-drawn plan ;  
 " Hence with perplexing pomp, unwieldy wealth  
 " Let me not seem, but be the happy man,  
 " Possess of love, of competence, and health."  
 Smiling he spake, nor did the Fates withstand ;  
 In rural arts the peaceful moments flew :  
 Say, lovely lawn ! that felt his forming hand,  
 How soon thy surface shone with verdure new ;  
 How soon obedient FLORA brought her store,  
 And o'er thy breast a shower of fragrance flung :  
 VERTUMNUS came ; his earliest blooms he bore,  
 And thy rich sides with waving purple hung :

Then to the sight, he call'd yon stately spire,  
 He pierced th' opposing oak's luxuriant shade ;  
 Bade yonder crowding hawthorns low retire,  
 Nor veil the glories of the golden mead.  
 Hail, sylvan wonders, hail ! and hail the hand,  
 Whose native taste thy native charms display'd,  
 And taught one little acre to command  
 Each envied happiness of scene, and shade.  
 Is there a hill, whose distant azure bounds  
 The ample range of Scarsdale's proud domain,  
 A mountain hoar, that yon wild peak surrounds,  
 But lends a willing beauty to thy plain ?  
 And, lo ! in yonder path I spy my friend ;  
 He looks the guardian genius of the grove,  
 Mild as the fabled form \* that whilom deign'd,  
 At MILTON's call, in Harefield's haunts to rove.  
 Blest Spirit, come ! though pent in mortal mould,  
 I'll yet invoke thee by that purer name ;  
 Oh come, a portion of thy bliss unfold,  
 From Folly's maze my wayward step reclaim.

NOTE.

\* See the description of the Genius of the Wood, in MILTON's  
 Arcades.

For know, by lot, from Jove, I am the power  
 Of this fair wood, and live in oaken bower ;  
 To nurse the saplings tall, and curl the grove  
 With ringlets quaint, &c.

Too long, alas, my inexperience'd youth,  
    Misled by flattering Fortune's specious tale,  
Has left the rural reign of peace and truth,  
    The huddling brook, cool cave, and whispering vale.  
Won to the world, a candidate for praise,  
    Yet, let me boast, by no ignoble art,  
Too oft the public ear has heard my lays,  
    Too much its vain applause has touch'd my heart ;  
But now, ere Custom binds his powerful chains,  
    Come, from the base enchanter set me free ;  
While yet my soul its first, best taste retains,  
    Recall that soul to reason, peace, and thee.  
Teach me, like thee, to muse on Nature's page,  
    To mark each wonder in Creation's plan,  
Each mode of being trace, and, humbly sage,  
    Deduce from these the genuine powers of man ;  
Of man, while warm'd with reason's purer ray,  
    No tool of policy, no dupe to pride ;  
Before vain Science led his taste astray ;  
    When conscience was his law, and God his guide.  
This let me learn, and learning let me live  
    The lesson o'er. From that great guide of truth  
Oh may my suppliant soul the boon receive  
    To tread through age the footsteps of thy youth.

Written in 1758.



ELEGY IV.\*

TO THE REV. MR. HURD.

FRIEND of my youth, who, when the willing Muse  
Stream'd o'er my breast her warm poetic rays,  
Saw'st the fresh seeds their vital powers diffuse,  
And fed'st them with the fost'ring dew of praise!  
Whate'er the produce of the unthrifty soil,  
The leaves, the flowers, the fruits, to thee belong:  
The labourer earns the wages of his toil;  
Who form'd the Poet, well may claim the song.  
Yes, 'tis my pride to own, that taught by thee  
My conscious soul superior flights essay'd;  
Learnt from thy lore the Poet's dignity,  
And spurn'd the hirelings of the rhyming trade.  
Say, scenes of Science, say, thou haunted stream!  
[For oft my Muse-led steps did'st thou behold]  
How on thy banks I rifled every theme,  
That Fancy fabled in her age of gold.  
How oft' I cried, " Oh come, thou tragic Queen!  
" March from thy Greece with firm majestic tread!

NOTE.

\* This Elegy was prefixed to the former editions of CARACTACUS, as dedicatory of that poem.

“ Such as when Athens saw thee fill her scene,  
“ When Sophocles thy choral Graces led :  
“ Saw thy proud pall its purple length devolve ;  
“ Saw thee uplift the glitt’ring dagger high ;  
“ Ponder with fixed brow thy deep resolve,  
“ Prepared to strike, to triumph, and to die.  
“ Bring then to Britain’s plain that choral throng ;  
“ Display thy buskin’d pomp, thy golden lyre ;  
“ Give her historic forms the soul of song,  
“ And mingle Attic art with SHAKSPEARE’S fire.”  
“ Ah, what, fond boy, dost thou presume to claim ?”  
The Muse replied: “ Mistaken suppliant, know,  
“ To light in SHAKSPEARE’S breast the dazzling flame  
“ Exhausted all PARNASSUS could bestow.  
“ True ; Art remains ; and, if from his bright page  
“ Thy mimic power one vivid beam can seize,  
“ Proceed ; and in that best of tasks engage,  
“ Which tends at once to profit, and to please.”  
She spake ; and Harewood’s towers spontaneous rose  
Soft virgin warblings echo’d through the grove ;  
And fair ELFRIDA pour’d forth all her woes,  
The hapless pattern of connubial love.  
More awful scenes old Mona next display’d ;  
Her caverns gloom’d, her forests wav’d on high,  
While flamed within their consecrated shade  
The genius stern of British liberty.  
And see, my HURD ! to thee those scenes consign’d ;  
Oh ! take and stamp them with thy honour’d name.

Around the page be friendship's chaplet twin'd ;  
 And, if they find the road to honest Fame,  
 Perchance the candour of some nobler age  
 May praise the Bard,\* who bade gay Folly bear  
 Her cheap applauses to the busy stage,  
 And leave him pensive Virtue's silent tear :  
 Chose too to consecrate his fav'rite strain  
 To him, who, grac'd by ev'ry liberal art  
 That best might shine among the learned train,  
 Yet more excell'd in morals and in heart :  
 Whose equal mind could see vain fortune shower  
 Her flimsy favours on the fawning crew,  
 While, in low Thurcaston's sequester'd bower,  
 She fix'd him distant from Promotion's view ;  
 Yet, shelter'd there by calm Contentment's wing,  
 Pleased he could smile, and, with sage HOOKER's eye,  
 " See from his mother earth God's blessings spring,  
 " And eat his bread in peace and privacy." †

Written in 1759.

\* Nil equidem feci (tu scis hoc ipse) theatris :  
 Musa nec in plausus ambitiosa mea est.

OVID. Trist. Lib. V. El. vii. 23.

† Verbatim from a letter of HOOKER's to Archbishop WHITGIFT. " But, my Lord, I shall never be able to finish what I have begun," [viz. his immortal Treatise on Ecclesiastical Polity] " unless I be removed into some quiet country parsonage, where " *I may see God's blessings spring out of my mother earth, and eat " my own bread in peace and privacy.*" See his Life in the Biographia Britannica.

ELEGY V.

ON THE DEATH OF A LADY.

THE midnight clock has toll'd ; and hark, the bell  
Of Death beats slow ! Heard ye the note profound ?  
It pauses now ; and now, with rising knell,  
Flings to the hollow gale its sullen sound.  
Yes, \* \* \* is dead. Attend the strain,  
Daughters of Albion ! ye that, light as air,  
So oft have tript in her fantastic train,  
With hearts as gay, and faces half as fair :  
For she was fair beyond your brightest bloom  
(This Envy owns, since now her bloom is fled)  
Fair as the forms, that, wove in Fancy's loom,  
Float in light vision round the Poet's head.  
Whene'er with soft serenity she smil'd,  
Or caught the orient blush of quick surprise,  
How sweetly mutable, how brightly wild,  
The liquid lustre darted from her eyes ?  
Each look, each motion wak'd a new-born grace,  
That o'er her form its transient glory cast :  
Some lovelier wonder soon usurp'd the place,  
Chas'd by a charm still lovelier than the last.

That bell again ! It tells us what she is :  
 On what she was no more the strain prolong :  
 Luxuriant Fancy pause : an hour like this  
 Demands the tribute of a serious song.  
 MARIA claims it from that sable bier,  
 Where cold and wan the slumberer rests her head ;  
 In still small whispers to Reflection's ear,  
 She breathes the solemn dictates of the dead.  
 Oh catch the awful notes, and lift them loud ;  
 Proclaim the theme, by sage, by fool rever'd ;  
 Hear it, ye young, ye vain, ye great, ye proud !  
 'Tis Nature speaks, and Nature will be heard.  
 Yes, ye shall hear, and tremble as ye hear,  
 While high with health, your hearts exulting leap :  
 Ev'n in the midst of Pleasure's mad career,  
 The mental monitor shall wake and weep.  
 For say, than \* \* \*'s propitious star,  
 What brighter planet on your births arose ;  
 Or gave of Fortune's gifts an ampler share,  
 In life to lavish, or in death to lose !  
 Early to lose ; while born on busy wing,  
 Ye sip the nectar of each varying bloom :  
 Nor fear, while basking by the beams of spring,  
 The wint'ry storm that sweeps you to the tomb.  
 Think of her fate ! revere the heav'nly hand  
 That led her hence, though soon, by steps so slow ;  
 Long at her couch Death took his patient stand,  
 And menac'd oft, and oft withheld the blow :

To give Reflection time, with lenient art,  
 Each fond delusion from her soul to steal ;  
 Teach her from Folly peaceably to part,  
 And wean her from a world she lov'd so well.  
 Say, are ye sure his mercy shall extend  
 To you so long a span? Alas, ye sigh :  
 Make then, while yet ye may, your God your friend,  
 And learn, with equal ease to sleep or die !  
 Nor think the Muse, whose sober voice ye hear,  
 Contracts with bigot frown her sullen brow ;  
 Casts round Religion's orb the mists of fear,  
 Or shades with horrors, what with smiles should glow.  
 No ; she would warm you with seraphic fire,  
 Heirs as ye are of heav'n's eternal day ;  
 Would bid you boldly to that heav'n aspire,  
 Not sink and slumber in your cells of clay.  
 Know, ye were form'd to range yon azure field,  
 In yon ethereal founts of bliss to lave ;  
 Force then, secure in Faith's protecting shield,  
 The sting from Death, the vict'ry from the Grave.  
 Is this the bigot's rant? Away ye vain,  
 Your hopes, your fears, in doubt, in dulness steep :  
 Go sooth your souls in sickness, grief, or pain,  
 With the sad solace of eternal sleep.  
 Yet will I praise you, triflers as ye are,  
 More than those preachers of your fav'rite creed,  
 Who proudly swell the brazen throat of war,  
 Who form the phalanx, bid the battle bleed ;

Nor wish for more : who conquer, but to die.

Hear, Folly, hear ; and triumph in the tale :

Like you, they reason ; not, like you, enjoy

The breeze of bliss, that fills your silken sail :

On Pleasure's glitt'ring stream ye gaily steer

Your little course to cold Oblivion's shore :

They dare the storm, and, through th' inclement year,

Stem the rough surge, and brave the torrent's roar.

Is it for glory ? that just Fate denies.

Long must the warrior moulder in his shroud,

Ere from her trump the heav'n-breath'd accents rise,

That lift the hero from the fighting crowd.

Is it his grasp of empire to extend ?

To curb the fury of insulting foes ?

Ambition, cease : the idle contest end :

'Tis but a kingdom thou canst win or lose.

NOTE.

In a book of French verses, entitled *Oeuvres du Philosophe de sans Souci*, and lately reprinted at Berlin, by authority, under the title of *Poesies Diverses*, may be found an epistle to Marshal KEITH, written professedly against the immortality of the soul. By way of specimen of the whole, take the following lines :

De l'avenir, cher KEITH, jugeons par la passé ;  
Comme avant que je fusse il n'avoit point pensé,  
De même, après ma mort, quand toutes mes partes  
Par la corruption seront aneanties,  
Par un même destin il ne pensera plus ;  
Non, rien n'est plus certain, soyons-en convaincu, &c.

It is to this epistle, that the rest of the Elegy alludes.

And why must murder'd myriads lose their all,  
    (If life be all) why desolation lour,  
With famish'd frown, on this affrighted ball,  
    That thou may'st flame the meteor of an hour?  
Go wiser ye, that flutter life away,  
    Crown with the mantling juice the goblet high;  
Weave the light dance, with festive freedom gay,  
    And live your moment, since the next ye die.  
Yet know, vain sceptics, know, th' Almighty mind,  
    Who breath'd on Man a portion of his fire,  
Bade his free soul, by earth nor time confin'd,  
    To Heav'n, to immortality aspire.  
Nor shall the pile of Hope, his Mercy rear'd,  
    By vain Philosophy be e'er destroy'd:  
Eternity, by all or wish'd or fear'd,  
    Shall be by all or suffer'd or enjoy'd.

Written in 1760.



ELEGY VI.

WRITTEN

IN A CHURCH-YARD IN SOUTH WALES,

1787.\*

FROM southern Cambria's richly-varied clime,  
Where grace and grandeur share an equal reign ;  
Where cliffs o'erhung with shade, and hills sublime  
Of mountain lineage sweep into the main ;  
From bays, where Commerce furls her wearied sails,  
Proud to have dar'd the dangers of the deep,  
And floats at anchor'd ease inclos'd by vales,  
To Ocean's verge where stray the vent'rous sheep :  
From brilliant scenes like these I turn my eye ;  
And, lo ! a solemn circle meets its view,

NOTE.

\* A custom is prevalent with the peasants in that part of the country, of planting field flowers and sweet herbs on the graves of their relations and friends; a pleasing specimen of this which the Author saw when he was paying a visit to Lord VERNON at Breton Ferry, Glamorganshire, in the summer of the year 1787, occasioned him to write this Elegy, first published 1797.

Wall'd to protect inhum'd mortality,  
 And shaded close with poplar and with yew.  
 Deep in that dell the humble fane appears,  
 Whence prayers if humble best to Heaven aspire ;  
 No tower embattled, no proud spire it rears,  
 A moss-grown croslet decks its lowly choir.  
 And round that fane the sons of toil repose,  
 Who drove the plough-share, or the sail who spread ;  
 With wives, with children, all in measur'd rows,  
 Two whiten'd flint stones mark the feet and head.  
 While these between full many a simple flow'r,  
 Pansy, and pink, with languid beauty smile ;  
 The primrose opening at the twilight hour,  
 And velvet tufts of fragrant chamomile.  
 For, more intent the smell than sight to please,  
 Surviving love selects its vernal race ;  
 Plants that with early perfume feed the breeze  
 May best each dank and noxious vapour chase.  
 The flaunting tulip, the carnation gay,  
 Turnsole, and piony, and all the train  
 That love to glitter in the noontide ray,  
 Ill suit the copse where Death and Silence reign.  
 Not but perchance to deck some virgin's tomb,  
 Where violets sweet their twofold purple spread,  
 Some rose of maiden blush may faintly bloom,  
 Or with'ring hang its emblematic head.  
 These to renew, with more than annual care  
 That wakeful love with pensive step will go ;

The hand that lifts the dibble shakes with fear  
     Lest haply it disturb the friend below.  
 Vain fear! for never shall disturber come  
     Potent enough to wake such sleep profound,  
 Till the dread herald to the day of doom  
     Pours from his trump the world-dissolving sound.  
 Vain fear! yet who that boasts a heart to feel,  
     An eye to pity, would that fear reprove?  
 They only who are curst with breasts of steel  
     Can mock the foibles of surviving love.  
 Those foibles far beyond cold Reason's claim  
     Have power the social charities to spread;  
 They feed, sweet Tenderness! thy lambent flame,  
     Which, while it warms the heart, improves the head.  
 Its chemic aid a gradual heat applies  
     That from the dross of self each wish refines,  
 Extracts the liberal spirit, bids it rise  
     Till with primeval purity it shines.  
 Take then, poor peasants, from the friend of GRAY  
     His humbler praise; for GRAY or fail'd to see,  
 Or saw unnotic'd, what had wak'd a lay  
     Rich in the pathos of true poesy.  
 Yes, had he pac'd this church-way path along,  
     Or lean'd like me against this ivied wall,  
 How sadly sweet had flow'd his Dorian song,  
     Then sweetest when it flow'd at Nature's call.  
 Like Tadmor's king, his comprehensive mind  
     Each plant's peculiar character could seize;

And hence his moralizing\* Muse had join'd,  
 To all these flow'rs, a thousand similies.  
 But he, alas! in distant village-grave  
 Has mix'd with dear maternal dust his own;  
 Ev'n now the pang, which parting Friendship gave,  
 Thrills at my heart, and tells me he is gone.  
 Take then from me the pensive strain that flows  
 Congenial to this consecrated gloom;  
 Where all that meets my eye some symbol shows  
 Of grief, like mine, that lives beyond the tomb.  
 Shows me that you, though doom'd the livelong year  
 For scanty food the toiling arm to ply,  
 Can smite your breasts, and find an inmate there  
 To heave, when Mem'ry bids, the ready sigh.  
 Still nurse that best of inmates, gentle swains!  
 Still act as heartfelt sympathy inspires;  
 The taste, which birth from Education gains,  
 Serves but to chill Affection's native fires.  
 To you more knowledge than what shields from vice  
 Were but a gift would multiply your cares;

NOTE.

\* This epithet is used to call to the reader's recollection a passage in Shakspeare, descriptive of a character to which in its best parts Mr. Gray's was not dissimilar.

*Duke Sen.* But what said Jaques?

Did he not *moralize* this spectacle?

*First Lord.* O yes, into a *thousand similies*.

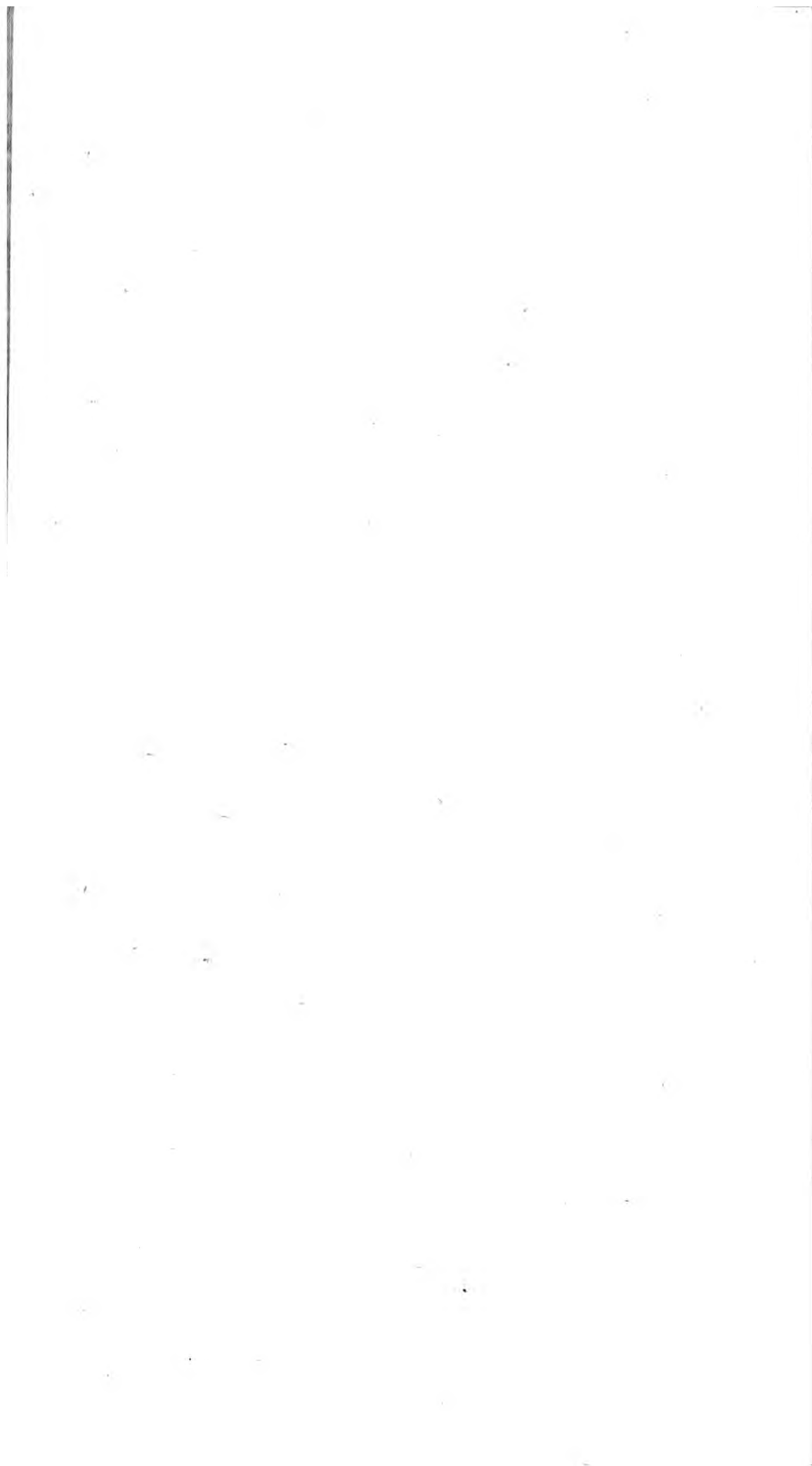
*As you like it. Act II. Scene I.*

Of matter and of mind let reasoners nice  
 Dispute ; be Patience, yours, Presumption theirs.  
 You know (what more can earthly Science know ?)  
 That all must die ; by Revelation's ray  
 Illum'd, you trust the ashes placed below  
 These flow'ry tufts, shall rise again to day.  
 What if you deem, by hoar tradition led,  
 To you perchance devolv'd from Druids old,  
 That parted souls at solemn seasons tread  
 The circles that their shrines of clay enfold ?  
 What if you deem they some sad pleasure take  
 These poor memorials of your love to view,  
 And scent the perfume for the planter's sake,  
 That breathes from vulgar rosemary and rue ?  
 Unfeeling Wit may scorn, and Pride may frown ;  
 Yet Fancy, empress of the realms of song,  
 Shall bless the decent mode, and Reason own  
 It may be right—for who can prove it wrong ?\*

NOTE.

\* Although I run the risk of some imputed vanity, I am induced to add here, the opinion of a too partial friend concerning the foregoing Poem ; but shall only extract from the written paper which he gave me, the part that points out the specific differences which occurred to him, when he compared it with another of a very similar title. And this I do merely to obviate a prejudice which some readers might take to it, as supposing from the title and subject that I wrote it to emulate what, I am as ready to own as they are, is *inimitable*. “ Your Elegy, (says “ this Gentleman) as it relates to a particular and local custom

“ in South Wales, must of course little resemble Mr. GRAY’S,  
 “ which is purely of a general kind. He laments the departed  
 “ peasants; you compassionate those that lament *them*: he places  
 “ their former occupations in an honourable light; you view, in  
 “ an amiable one, the weakness of their surviving friends: in  
 “ the former Elegy, we find the dead considered with respect to  
 “ what their possible situation while living might have been,  
 “ with all the advantages of knowledge; in the latter the living  
 “ are endeavoured to be consoled for the want of it. In the ge-  
 “ neral church-yard of the one, contemplation is more widely-  
 “ extended; in the other particular one, concern is more nearly  
 “ impressed. His verses inspire a solemnity which awes and  
 “ arrests the mind; your’s breathe a tenderness which softens  
 “ and attracts the heart: there are stanzas in GRAY’S Elegy of  
 “ what, I venture to call, sublime melancholy; in your’s of ex-  
 “ treme sensibility.—It is a curious circumstance that the writer  
 “ of the former should be introduced into both these Elegies,  
 “ but certainly, as reality is superior to fiction, in a more pathe-  
 “ tic manner in the latter. The locality of your scene enabled  
 “ you to open with a picturesque description, which, besides  
 “ contrasting strongly with the place of interment, is copie  
 “ from nature, and animated with expression.”—I will add, that  
 it was not so much for the sake of this kind of contrast that I  
 gave the Elegy such an exordium, as to make it appear a *day*  
 scene, and as such to contrast it with the *twilight* scene of my  
 excellent Friend’s Elegy.



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**S O N N E T S.**

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SONNET I.\*

SENT TO A YOUNG LADY WITH DODSLEY'S  
MISCELLANIES.

WHILE Age and Avarice, with malignant eye,  
Forbid gay Hymen rob'd in saffron train,  
With glitt'ring torch to lead thee to the fane,  
Where Love awaits to bind the nuptial tie ;  
To sooth thy cares a group of Muses fly,  
Warbling from varied lyres a varied strain.  
Verse has an opiate charm for am'rous pain,  
And spells, like magic, lurk in minstrelsy.  
With these conjoin'd accept this friendly lay,  
Which truth inspires, and pure affection warms,  
From Him, who saw thy infant bloom display  
What now, in full maturity of charms,  
Expands, to crown the long-expected day  
That yields those beauties to a husband's arms.

NOTE.

\* Written in the year 1748, and first printed in 1797.

SONNET II.\*

PRESENTED TO A FRIEND ON THE MORN-  
ING OF HIS MARRIAGE.

No, thou resplendent Sun ! thy orient ray  
Shall not in silence to its height ascend ;  
Thou com'st, thus rob'd in lustre, to attend  
On social BAGNAL † this auspicious day,  
When Youth, Wealth, Innocence, and Beauty gay  
Prepare to crown the virtues of my friend.  
Patron of Light and Verse ! thyself shall lend  
A beam of inspiration to my lay,  
Which, while it sings the merits of his mind  
Where true Benevolence still active glows,  
And native sense with sterling Science join'd,  
And Honour firm alike to words and vows,  
Proclaims, that in her choice His Bride shall find  
Through life, the Friend, the Lover, and the Spouse.

NOTES.

\* Written in London, 1752, and first printed 1797.

† JOHN BAGNAL, Esq. then a student in the Temple.

SONNET III.

AUGUST, 1773.

“ AH ! why, cries Prudence, “ turn thy wayward feet  
“ From scenes congenial to each spruce Divine ?  
“ See, how they flutter round Preferment’s shrine  
“ With scarfe so rustling, and with band so neat !  
“ Bless’d with such brethren and their converse sweet,  
“ Like them politely pray, devoutly dine.”  
Pardon me, Dame ; for Competence benign  
(Heav’n-sent at last) now favours my retreat,  
Leads me to where Content sedately gay,  
Her favourite sister, my free step attends :  
Hark ! she repeats the Pontic exile’s lay,\*  
Bids me enjoy the boon, kind Fortune lends,  
Of Envy void, while Time slides soft away,  
And from my equals only cull my friends.

NOTE.

\* *Vive sine invidiâ, mollesq; inglorius annos*

*Exige, amicitias et tibi junge pares.*

*Ovid Trist. Lib. III. Eleg. IV. p. 42.*

SONNET IV.

TO THE RIGHT REVEREND

THE BISHOP OF LICHFIELD AND COVENTRY,

PREFIXED TO THE DRAMATIC POEM OF CARACTACUS, WHEN  
ALTERED FOR STAGE REPRESENTATION.

**S**TILL let my HURD a smile of candour lend  
To scenes, that dar'd on Grecian pinions tow'r,  
When, "in low Thurcaston's sequester'd bow'r,"\*  
He prais'd the strain, because he lov'd the friend:  
There golden Leisure did his steps attend,  
Nor had the rare, yet well-weigh'd, call of Power  
To those high cares decreed his watchful hour,  
On which fair Albion's future hopes depend.†  
A fate unlook'd-for waits my friend and me;  
He pays to Duty what was Learning's claim,  
Resigning classic ease for dignity;  
I yield my Muse to Fashion's praise or blame:  
Yet still our hearts in this great truth agree,  
That Peace alone is bliss, and Virtue fame.

Aston, Nov. 12, 1776.

NOTES.

\* See the conclusion of the 3d Elegy, p. 108 of this Volume.

† He was then Preceptor to the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York.

SONNET V.

TO A VERY YOUNG PAINTER.

**W**HEN Genius first on Attic walls display'd  
 His imitative powers, four simple hues  
 Were all that great Appelles deign'd to use :\*  
 With these combin'd he to each eye convey'd,  
 By magic force of colouring light and shade,  
 His miracles of Grace ; while every Muse  
 Attun'd her lyre, impatient to diffuse  
 His fame in vivid verse, that scorns to fade :  
 These then, ingenuous Boy, alone prepare ;  
 From these all Nature's tints arrange with care ;  
 With these produce each shadow, light, and line,  
 And, while they all thy mix'd attention share,  
 Chastely to paint, correctly to design,  
 Deem but one art, and let that art be thine.

NOTE.

\* See Plinii Nat. Hist. Lib. XXXV. Cap. 15, the pigments he enumerates were black, white, yellow, and red, as appears from the following passage, " Quatuor coloribus solis immortalia  
 " opera illa fecere ; ex albis, Melino ; ex silaceis, Attico ; ex  
 " rubris, Sinopide Pontica ; ex nigris, Atramento : " APELLES,  
 Echion, Melanthius, Nicomachus, Clarissimi Pictores ; quum  
 tabulæ eorum singulæ oppidorum venirent opibus.

The authority of my late excellent friend Sir JOSHUA REY-

**WOLDS** fully supports the latter piece of advice, who in his second Discourse to the Pupils of the Royal Academy (see page 54, 8vo. edition) says, "What therefore I wish to impress upon you is "this, that whenever an opportunity offers you may paint your "studies instead of drawing them. This will give you such a "facility in using colours, that they will arrange themselves "under the pencil, even without the attention of the hand that "conducts it. If one art excluded the other, this advice could "not, with any propriety, be given; but if painting comprises "both drawing and colouring, and if by a short struggle of resolute industry the same expedition is attainable in painting, "as in drawing on paper, I cannot see what objection can justly "be made to the practice, or why that should be done in parts, "which may be done altogether."

Let me add from myself, that I suspect the use of a multiplicity of pigments, and the prohibition of the pencil (hereafter to be the artist's principal instrument) till the port-crayon has been first long and sedulously employed, have frequently been great impediments to the progress of young artists, especially of those who are endowed by nature with an inventive faculty.

SONNET VI.\*

TO GEORGE BUSSY VILLIERS

EARL OF JERSEY, &c. &c.

AND GEORGE SIMON HARCOURT

EARL HARCOURT, &c. &c.

YE gen'rous pair, who held the Poet dear,  
Whose blameless life my friendly pen portrays,  
Accept, with that combin'd, his latest lays,  
While still young Fancy sports in diction clear ;  
And may propitious Fate their merit bear  
To times, when Taste shall weave the wreaths of praise  
By modes disdain'd in these fantastic days ;  
Such wreaths as classic heads were proud to wear.  
But if no future ear applauds his strain,  
If mine alike to Lethe's lake descends,  
Yet, while aloof, on Mem'ry's buoyant main,  
The gale of Fame your genuine worth extends,  
Still shall our names this fair distinction gain,  
That Villiers and that Harcourt call'd us friends.

York, Dec. 11, 1786.

NOTE.

\* Prefixed to the Memoirs of William Whitehead, Esq. published 1788. Ed.



SONNET VII.\*

FEBRUARY 23, 1795.

ANNIVERSARY.

**A** PLAINTIVE Sonnet flow'd from MILTON's pen,  
When Time had stol'n his three and twentieth year :†  
Say, shall not I then shed one tuneful tear,  
Robb'd by the thief of threescore years and ten ?  
No ! for the foes of all life-lengthen'd men,  
Trouble and toil, ‡ approach not yet too near ;  
Reason, meanwhile, and health, and memory dear  
Hold unimpair'd their weak, yet wonted reign :  
Still round my shelter'd lawn I pleas'd can stray ;  
Still trace my sylvan blessings to their spring :  
**BEING OF BEINGS !** Yes, that silent lay,  
Which musing Gratitude delights to sing,  
Still to thy sapphire throne shall Faith convey,  
And Hope, the Cherub of unwearied wing.

NOTES.

\* First published 1797.

† Alluding to the 7th Sonnet of MILTON, beginning,

“ How soon hath Time, the subtle thief of youth, &c.”

‡ See Psalm xc. ver. 10.

SONNET VIII.\*

FEBRUARY 23, 1796.

A N N I V E R S A R Y.

IN the long course of seventy years and one,  
Oft have I known on this, my natal day,  
Hoar frost, and sweeping snow prolong their sway,  
The wild winds whistle, and the forests groan ;  
But now spring's smile has veil'd stern winter's frown ;  
And now the birds on ev'ry budding spray  
Chaunt orisons, as to the morn of May :  
With them all fear of season's change is flown ;  
Like them I sing, yet not, like them beguil'd,  
Expect the vernal bloom of youth to know :  
But, though such hope be from my breast exil'd,  
I feel warm Piety's superior glow,  
And as my winter, like the year's, is mild,  
Give praise to HIM, from whom all mercies flow.

NOTE.

\* First published 1797.

SONNET IX.\*

TO

THE BISHOP OF WORCESTER,

SENT TO HIM WITH THE PRECEDING SONNET.

WHAT! when the step of even-footed time  
Has led me one and seventy years along,  
Dare I attempt a second birth-day song,  
And bid it tinkle in Petrarchian chime?  
Shall I, impeded by the knots of rhyme,  
Venture to shoot the warp of verse among  
My blunted shuttle? Be it right or wrong,  
I'll try, yet keep from pathos or sublime;  
For HURD, the critic of my youthful lay,  
And yet Right Reverend Censor, cries "Forbear!  
"Age should avoid, like Infancy, to play  
"With pointed tools; a Sonnet once a year,  
"Or so, my nod permits thee to essay."  
Duteous I bow, yet think the doom severe.

Aston, Feb. 23, 1796.

NOTE.

\* First published 1797.

SONNET X.\*

FEBRUARY 23, 1797.

ANNIVERSARY.

AGAIN the year on easy wheels has roll'd  
To bear me to the term of seventy-two.  
Yet still my eyes can seize the distant blue  
Of yon wild Peak,† and still my footsteps bold,  
Unprop'd by staff, support me to behold  
How Nature, to her Maker's mandate true,  
Calls Spring's impartial heralds to the view,  
The snow-drop pale, the crocus spik'd with gold;  
And still (thank Heav'n) if I not falsely deem  
My Lyre, yet vocal, freely can afford  
Strains not discordant to each moral theme  
Fair Truth inspires, and aid me to record,  
(Best of poetic palms!) my Faith supreme  
In thee, my God, my Saviour, and my Lord!

NOTES.

\* Now first printed.

† The high grounds of Derbyshire called the Peak are visible from the rectory-house at Aston. Ed.

SONNET XI.\*

OCCASIONED BY

A LATE ATTACK ON THE PRESENT TASTE  
OF ENGLISH GARDENS.

WHEN two Arcadian squires † in rhyme and prose  
Prick'd forth to spout that *dilettanti* lore  
Their *Ciceronis* long had threadbare wore,  
TASTE from his polish'd lawn indignant rose,  
And cry'd, " as Pedants are true Learning's foes,  
" So, when true Genius ventures to restore  
" To Nature, scenes that Fashion marr'd before,  
" These travell'd *Cognoscenti* interpose  
" And prate of PICTURESQUENESS, ‡—Let them prate  
" While to my genuine Votaries I assign  
" The pleasing task from her too rustic state  
" To lead the willing Goddess ; to refine,  
" But not transform, her charms, and at her shrine  
" Bid Use with Elegance obsequious wait."

NOTES.

\* First published 1797.

† This epithet is rather hazarded, but if they be not *Pastori d'Arcadi*, they ought to be so, for they are most certainly Arcades ambo.

‡ Had Dr. JOHNSON heard this word used, he would certainly have said, " Sir, the term is *cacophonous*."

SONNET XII.\*

TO A GRAVEL WALK,

RELATIVE TO THE PRECEDING SUBJECT.

SMOOTH, simple Path! whose undulating line,  
With sidelong tufts of flow'ry fragrance crown'd,  
"Plain in its neatness," † spans my garden ground;  
What, though two acres thy brief course confine,  
Yet sun and shade, and hill and dale are thine,  
And use with beauty here more surely found,  
Than where, to spread the picturesque around,  
Cart ruts and quarry holes their charms combine! ‡  
Here, as thou lead'st my step through lawn or grove,  
Liberal though limited, restrain'd though free,  
Fearless of dew, or dirt, or dust, I rove,  
And own those comforts, all deriv'd from thee!  
Take then, smooth Path, this tribute of my love,  
Thou emblem pure of legal liberty!

Aston, Nov. 27, 1795.

NOTES.

\* First published 1797.

† A phrase that MILTON uses to express *simplex munditiis*. See his translation of Hor. Ode V. Lib. I. Mr. T. WARTON, in his edition of MILTON'S Poems, criticises the expression. It is however MILTON'S, and, if it does not fully express HORACE'S meaning, seems to serve my purpose perfectly.

‡ See Mr. PRICE'S Description of a Picturesque Lane.

SONNET XIII.\*

OCCASIONED BY  
A DIDACTIC POEM ON THE PROGRESS OF  
CIVIL SOCIETY.

OLD as I am, I yet have powers to sneer  
At him, who dares debase the gold of Gray  
With his vile dross, and by such base allay,  
Hope to buy off the critic's frown severe ;  
Him too, whose page e'erwhile had dar'd appear  
With shameless front the symbols to display  
Of Pagan rites obscene, and thence convey  
Shame to each eye, profaneness to each ear.  
Methinks, through Fancy's tube, my friend I spy  
Thron'd on a cloud in yon ethereal plain,  
" Smiling in scorn ;" methinks, I hear him cry,  
" Prosaic Poetaster, cease to drain  
" The filthy dregs of Epicurus' sty ;  
" They shall not mix with my nectareous strain !"†

NOTES.

\* First published 1797.

† What Mr. GRAY thought and writ (see his *Detached Thoughts*, printed in his *Memoirs*, Vol. III. p. 113, last edition) gives complete authority to this *Prosopopæia*.

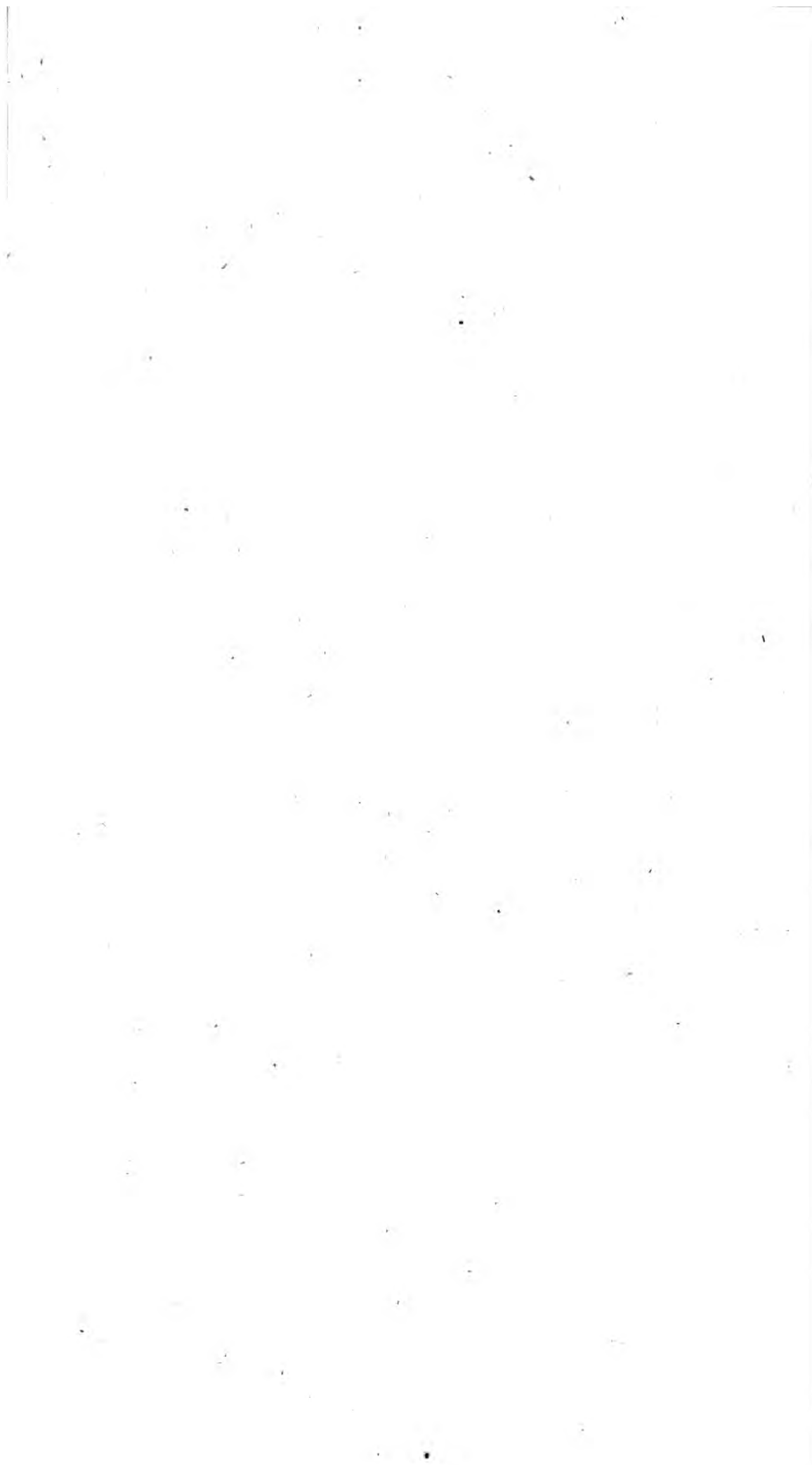
" The doctrine of Epicurus is ever ruinous to society. It had its rise when Greece was declining, and, perhaps, hastened its dissolution, as also that of Rome. It is now propagated in France and in England, and seems likely to produce the same effects in both." May heaven avert, at least, the latter part of this presentiment formed above forty years ago !

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**EPITAPHS**  
**AND**  
**INSCRIPTIONS.**

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EPITAPH I.

ON MRS. MASON,

IN THE CATHEDRAL OF BRISTOL.

TAKE, holy earth! all that my soul holds dear :  
Take that best gift which Heav'n so lately gave :  
To Bristol's fount I bore with trembling care  
Her faded form : she bow'd to taste the wave,  
And died. Does Youth, does Beauty, read the line ?  
Does sympathetic fear their breasts alarm ?  
Speak, dead MARIA ! breathe a strain divine :  
Ev'n from the grave thou shalt have power to charm.  
Bid them be chaste, be innocent, like thee ;  
Bid them in Duty's sphere as meekly move ;  
And if so fair, from vanity as free ;  
As firm in friendship, and as fond in love.  
Tell them, though 'tis an awful thing to die,  
( 'Twas ev'n to thee ) yet the dread path once trod,  
Heav'n lifts its everlasting portals high,  
And bids " the pure in heart behold their God."

EPITAPH II.

ON MISS DRUMMOND,

IN THE CHURCH OF BRODSWORTH, YORKSHIRE.

**H**ERE sleeps what once was Beauty, once was Grace ;  
Grace, that with tenderness and sense combin'd  
To form that harmony of soul and face,  
Where beauty shines the mirror of the mind.  
Such was the Maid, that in the morn of youth,  
In virgin innocence, in Nature's pride,  
Blest with each art that owes its charm to truth,  
Sunk in her Father's fond embrace, and died.  
He weeps : Oh venerate the holy tear :  
Faith lends her aid to ease affliction's load ;  
The Parent mourns his Child upon her bier,  
The Christian yields an Angel to his God.

EPITAPH III.

ON JOHN DEALTRY, M. D.

IN THE CATHEDRAE OF YORK.

HERE o'er the tomb, where DEALTRY's ashes sleep,  
See Health,\* in emblematic anguish weep !  
She drops her faded wreath ; " No more," she cries,  
" Let languid mortals, with beseeching eyes,  
" Implore my feeble aid : it fail'd to save  
" My own and Nature's guardian from the grave."

NOTE.

\* This inscription alludes to the design of the sculpture, which is a figure of Health, with her ancient insignia, in alto relievo, dropping a chaplet on the side of a monumental urn.

EPITAPH IV.  
ON MRS. TATTON,

IN THE CHURCH OF WITHENSHAW IN CHESHIRE.

**I**F e'er on earth true happiness were found  
'Twas thine, blest Shade! that happiness to prove;  
A father's fondest wish thy duty crown'd,  
Thy softer virtues fix'd a husband's love.  
Ah! when he led thee to the nuptial fane,  
How smil'd the morning with auspicious rays!  
How triumph'd Youth, and Beauty, in thy train,  
And flatt'ring Health that promis'd length of days!  
Heav'n join'd your hearts. Three pledges of your joy  
Were giv'n, in thrice the years revolving round—  
Here, Reader! pause; and own, with pitying eye,  
That "not on earth true happiness is found."

EPITAPH V.  
ON MR. GRAY,

IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

No more the Grecian Muse unrivall'd reigns,  
To Britain let the nations homage pay;  
She felt a Homer's fire in Milton's strains,\*  
A Pindar's rapture from the lyre of GRAY.

NOTE.

\* The cenotaph is placed immediately under that of Milton, and represents, in alto relievo, a female figure with a lyre, as emblematical of the higher kinds of poetry, pointing with one hand to the bust above, and supporting with the other a medalion, on which is a profile head inscribed, "THOMAS GRAY." On the plinth is the following date; "He died July 31, 1771."

The sculpture was executed by that eminent artist Mr. Bacon, in Newman-street, at the joint expense of Dr. James Browne, Master of Pembroke College, Cambridge; Richard Stonhewer, Esq. Auditor of Excise; and the Author.

EPITAPH VI.

ON THOMAS FOUNTAYNE, ESQ.

ONLY SON OF THE DEAN OF YORK, IN THE CHURCH OF MELTON,  
YORKSHIRE.

**O** HERE, if ever, holy Patience bend  
Thy duteous knee ! the hand of Heav'n revere !  
Here bid the father, mother, sister, friend  
In mute submission drop the christian tear !  
Nor blame, that in the vernal noon of youth  
The buds of manly worth, whose opening bloom  
Had glow'd with Honour, Fortitude, and Truth,  
Sunk in th' eternal winter of the tomb :  
That he, whose form with health, with beauty charm'd,  
For whom fair Fortune's liberal feast was spread,  
Whom Science nurtur'd, bright example warm'd,  
Was torn by ling'ring torture to the dead.  
" Hark !" cries a voice that awes the silenc'd air,  
" The doom of man in my dread bosom lies ;  
" Be your's awhile to pace this vale of care,  
" Be his to soar with seraphs in the skies."

EPITAPH VII.\*

ON LAUNCELOT BROWNE, ESQ.

IN THE CHURCH OF FEN-STANTON, HUNTINGDONSHIRE.

YE Sons of Elegance ; who truly taste  
The simple charms which genuine Art supplies,  
Come from the sylvan scenes his Genius grac'd,  
And offer here your tributary sighs :  
But know, that more than Genius slumbers here ;  
Virtues were his, that Art's best powers transcend :  
Come, ye superior train ! who these revere,  
And weep the Christian, Husband, Father, Friend !

NOTE.

\* This and the foregoing Epitaph, with some others, come under that stricture, which Dr. JOHNSON has imposed on several of Mr. POPE'S. The Author knows, but despises it. Personal appellatives in Greek appear gracefully in the Anthologia. In English poetry they almost constantly induce an air of vulgarity. That species of criticism, therefore, which either in the verse or prose of any language militates against what HORACE calls its *jus et norma loquendi*, he holds to be futile. Besides this, when, on a monumental tablet, a prose inscription precedes (as is ever the modern mode) the verses, why should these be loaded with any unnecessary repetition ?



EPITAPH VIII.

ON MRS. ANN E. MORRITT,

IN THE CHURCH OF SELBY, DISTINGUISHED FOR COPYING, IN  
NEEDLE-WORK, SEVERAL PICTURES OF SOME OF THE  
FIRST ARTISTS.

**B**LEST Shade, whose Genius in thy earliest days  
Fir'd thee to emulate the Pencil's praise,  
To seize the Painter's powers without the name,  
And soar on female attributes to Fame !\*  
This verse records how to those powers were join'd  
The strongest manliest energies of mind,  
Records those years of pain thy frame sustain'd  
With patience firm, with Love and Faith unfeign'd,  
And Hope, that ever hov'ring o'er thy head,  
The brilliant palm of bliss eternal spread.

NOTE.

\* Her works, deservedly admired, are now in the possession  
of J. B. S. Morrill, Esq. at Rokeby Park, Yorkshire.

## INSCRIPTION IX.

ON A TRIPOD TO THE MEMORY OF

WILLIAM WHITEHEAD, ESQ. P. L.

IN THE PLEASURE GROUND OF EARL HARCOURT,  
NEWNAM, OXFORDSHIRE.

HARCOURT and Friendship this memorial rais'd  
Near to the oak, where Whitehead oft reclin'd ;  
Where all that Nature, rob'd by Art, displays  
With charms congenial sooth'd his polish'd mind.  
Let Fashion's votaries, let the Sons of Fire \*  
The genius of that modest Bard despise,  
Who bad Discretion regulate his lyre,  
Studious to please, yet scorning to surprise.  
Enough for him if those, who shar'd his love  
Through life, who virtue more than verse revere,  
Here pensive pause, when circling round the grove,  
And drop the heart-paid tribute of a tear.

### NOTE.

\* Alluding to an expression of his in his Charge to the Poets, which excited the rancour of CHURCHILL, LLOYD, &c. See Memoirs of his Life, page 108.

## INSCRIPTION X.

UNDER A PICTURE OF THE EDITOR OF  
SHAKSPEARE'S MANUSCRIPTS,

1796.

### PARODY.

**F**OUR Forgers, born in one prolific age,  
Much critical *acumen* did engage.  
The first was soon by doughty Douglas scar'd,  
Though Johnson would have screen'd him, had he dar'd;\*  
† The next had all the cunning of a Scot  
‡ The third invention, genius—nay, what not?  
FRAUD, now exhausted, only could dispense  
To her fourth son, their three-fold impudence.

### NOTES.

\* When LAUDER first produced his forgery respecting MILTON, Dr. JOHNSON ushered it into the world by a preface, and afterwards writ LAUDER's recantation. Some of his numerous biographers have endeavoured to prove the Doctor no party concerned; however this be, the virulence he afterwards shewed to MILTON in the Life which he writ of him for the booksellers, leads fairly to support my assertion, that he would have defended LAUDER, had he been in any sort defensible.

† The translator of Fingal, Temora, &c.

‡ The discoverer and transcriber of ROWLEY's Poems.

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**MISCELLANIES.**

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THE  
BIRTH OF FASHION:  
AN EPISTOLARY TALE.

WRITTEN IN THE YEAR 1746, AND SENT TO A LADY WITH  
HOLLAR'S HABITS OF ENGLISH WOMEN, PUBLISHED  
IN THE FORMER CENTURY 1650.

I WISH this verse may chance to come  
Just as you dress for rout, or drum ;  
If so, while Betty at your back  
Or pins your gown,\* or folds your sacque,  
Dear Madam, let me beg you place  
These prints between yourself and glass,  
To see the change in female dress  
Made in a hundred years, or less.

NOTE.

\* The phrase at the time was *pinning a lady's tail*; but the young Author was then too delicate to use it: and happy it was he did not; for the present nicer age would have thought him as indelicate as Lord MONBODDO. However an excellent anecdote related of Mrs. RUSSEL, bedchamber-woman to the late Princess AMELIA, which is by many remembered (though not here related) will vindicate the authenticity of what was then the usual phrase to express the adjustment of a most material part of a lady's dress.

“ Sure, Sir, our grandames all were mad !

“ What vulgar airs the creatures had !

“ The awkward things—not half a waist ;

“ And that all frightfully unlac’d—

“ O monstrous ! what a shocking taste ?”\*

Just so indeed I did surmise

You would not fail to criticise ;

Yet still I cannot help conceiving,

If one of these good dames was living

And saw that five-yard hoop around ye,

Her shrewd reflections might confound ye :

But whatsoe’er her thoughts might be,

They’d have but little weight with me ;

For I opine, ’tis clear as light,

*Whatever is in dress is right ;*

The present is the test of taste,

And awkward ev’ry thing that’s past :

Thus we dislike, observe the proof,

Both Anna’s founce, and Besse’s ruff ;

NOTE.

\* What a strange objection is here put into the lady’s mouth ! she finds fault with the women in Charles the First’s time for having only half a waist ; when every body knows, that to have no waist at all is the true criterion of female elegance. As to lacing, who now could imitate the Venus de Medicis, or any other fine antique, that admitted so gothic a ligament.

Yet there's a time the Muse pronounces,  
When hoops shall be like ruffs and flounces.\*

For in an uniform progression  
Each mode a moment takes possession  
Of Beauty's throne, and fills the place,  
Attended by each charm and grace ;  
Yet, when depos'd by some new fashion,  
The charms and graces keep their station,  
And on the next thron'd whimsy wait  
With all the self-same form and state.  
So, at Culloden's furious fray  
Had Charley's broad swords won the day,  
Which, Heav'n be thank'd, was not the case,  
Some statesmen still had kept their place,  
And many wights, I name no names,  
Who swore to George, had sworn to James. †

NOTE.

\* Part of the prophecy seems to have been fulfilled, so far at least as *starched* ruffs go, though the male (I rather call them so than the masculine) followers of Fashion have found a mode of adding to the size of their own necks not quite so picturesque ; and the ladies have, occasionally in their morning dishabilles, condescended to imitate them. As to flounces, they have extended their dominion even to bed curtains and hangings of rooms: this, I suppose, out of charity to the insect tribe, for whom they afford a general and most convenient nidus.

† This bold assertion, I take for granted, was made merely on hear-say evidence. Readers at the present time will be best able to judge whether that evidence was founded on truth.



This granted, it no longer strange is,  
 That Fashions in their various changes,  
 Though e'er so odd, and out o' the way,  
 Should reign with universal sway.  
 For why—whatever mode takes place  
 'Tis just the same in point of grace.  
 A tale like Prior or Fontaine  
 Will make the thing extremely plain.

Cyprus was once, the learn'd agree,  
 The Vauxhall of Antiquity :  
 Her myrtle groves, and laurel shades  
 Echo'd with constant serenades,  
 And Grecian belles, that look'd as pretty,  
 And mov'd as graceful as Aurette,\*  
 With Grecian beaux the live-long day,  
 Or led the dance, or tun'd the lay.  
 Blest place ! and how could it be other,  
 Where all were rul'd by Cupid's mother ?

Nay, 'tis affirm'd, the Queen in person  
 Would oft partake of the diversion ;  
 And then incog. for fear of scandal,  
 And lest her pranks might give a handle

NOTE.

\* A celebrated opera dancer then in vogue.

To Pallas, and such sour old maids ;  
 So when she visited the shades,  
 She wisely laid aside the goddess,  
 And dress'd in round-ear'd cap and boddice.\*

One day, thus mask'd, she took her way  
 Along the margin of the sea,  
 Where in a creek (convenient spot)  
 The sea-nymphs had contriv'd a grot.  
 As here she sat, and humm'd a song,  
 She saw a boat row smooth along,  
 Ah ! what a lovely freight it bore !  
 A youth of eighteen years, or more,  
 Whose polish'd brow, and rosy cheek,  
 Love-glist'ning eye, and graceful neck,  
 With locks, that wanton'd in the wind,  
 Brought all Adonis to her mind !  
 Yet not like that rough woman-hater ;  
 No, he was half a petit-maitre ;  
 For dress improv'd his native bloom,  
 Dress fit for any drawing-room,

NOTE.

\* I suspect that the young Author now, and before in this epistle, took his idea of female shape and beauty from Fielding's Description of Fanny in his Adventures of Joseph Andrews ; an idea, which, compared with what it is now, was in that author as absurd, as in himself.

All Tyrian silk, and silver tissue.  
 Well, he arriv'd, and mark the issue—  
 He bow'd, saluted, prais'd the dame,  
 Said civil things, confess'd his flame.  
 She chose to go—He begg'd she'd stay;  
 But begg'd with such a winning way,  
 Was all so pressing, and so fervent,  
 So much her poor expiring servant,  
 That, need I say, he won the dame.  
 Here, Muse, to give no cause for blame,  
 We'll drop the curtain, and agree  
 To sing a harmless *Hymenæe*.

O! shower, ye crimson roses, shower  
 Perfumes ambrosial where they lie,  
 With clouds of fragrance veil the bower,  
 Thick veil from each intruding eye.  
 Blow soft, ye Zephyrs

—— Hark a noise!

What malice interrupts their joys?  
 O! heav'ns! the darling youth is fled:  
 She grasps a meteor in his stead.  
 A lion pawing o'er the plain,  
 Now "rampant shakes his brindled mane,"  
 And now a stream meand'ring laves  
 The golden sand, now joins the waves.\*

NOTE.

\* Though I do not find it on the margin of the original MS.

What shall affrighted Venus do ?

The youth was Proteus ; see him now  
Resume his form marine again,  
And rise from out the circling main,  
Encircled with his scaly train !

“ ’Tis not,” he cried, and archly smil’d,  
“ The first good time you’ve been beguil’d,  
“ So, lovely Goddess, wipe your eye,  
“ And listen to my prophecy :  
“ Know, ’tis decreed, you soon shall bear  
“ A daughter, pre-ordain’d to share  
“ The various powers we have between us,  
“ And change like Proteus, please like Venus :  
“ With Gods she’ll have some hard Greek name,  
“ But *Fashion* men will call the dame.”

This said, he plung’d beneath the flood ;  
The Goddess prudently thought good  
To hush the matter up, and hie  
To private lodgings in the sky ;

NOTE.

the Author had an eye to Virgil in the peculiar changes the  
mock lover employs :

—Ille suæ contra non immemor artis,  
Omnia transformat sese in miracula rerum,  
*Ignemque horribilem feram, fluviumque liquentem.*

Georg. Lib. IV. ver. 440.

And oft, though Juno begg'd she'd come  
 To Mount Olympus to her drum,\*  
 Yet she refus'd; would ne'er be seen,  
 But had the head-ach, nerves, and spleen.†

I doubt if any modern knows  
 How many months a goddess goes;  
 But 'tis enough, the reck'ning ended,  
 The babe was born, the mother mended:  
 Nor shall I spend much vain description  
 To show she hit her Sire's prediction;  
 For to a lady learn'd as you  
 All history will prove it true:  
 Yet if you had but less discerning,  
 The Muse might here show monstrous learning;  
 Describe in Greece what tricks she play'd,  
 And how she taught each Spartan maid  
 To show her legs (ingenious thought)  
 By well-chose slits in petticoat,  
 Which, did she run, or dance, or stoop,  
 Reveal'd as much as any hoop.

NOTES.

\* This is the second time we meet with this obsolete word, yet it will serve with many others in the Poem to ascertain its exact chronology.

† Spleen—another obsolete word. *Nerves* however obtains still most vehemently, though, perhaps, it may in time give place to spasms, whatever the author of *Zoonomia* may say of their non-existence.

Then might she soar on Roman wing,  
 Of Stola and of Palla sing ;  
 With critic nicety explore  
 What kind of hoods their matrons wore ;  
 How broad Lucretia's tucker spread ;  
 How Ovid's Julia dress'd her head,  
 And better ascertain these matters,  
 Than all the herd of commentators.  
 Next might she by due steps advance  
 To modern scenes ; and first to France :  
 France is her citadel, and there  
 The Goddess keeps her arms and car.\*  
 And thence she sends her vice-roy apes  
 To form our uncouth English shapes.  
 Here Pegasus might run his race  
 O'er Mecklin, and o'er Brussels lace :  
 Here might he take Pindaric bounces  
 O'er floods of furbelows and flounces ;  
 Gallop on lutestring plains, invade  
 The thick-wove groves of rich brocade,  
 And leap o'er whale-bone's stiff barrier. †  
 —But here I bridle his career,  
 And sagely think it more expedient  
 To sign myself your most obedient.

## NOTES.

\* Here the boy pedant comes again from his Virgil with

— Hic illius arma

Hic Currus fuit. — Æn. Lib. I. v. 20.

† Whale-bone and brocade equally exploded articles.

## IL BELLICOSO.\*

**H**ENCE, dull lethargic Peace ;  
 Born in some hoary beadsman's cell obscure,  
 Or in Circean bower,  
 Where Manhood dies, and Reason's vigils cease.  
 Hie to congenial climes ;  
 Prolong some Eastern tyrant's downy reign,  
 Or on Italian plain,  
 Mid citron shades and myrtle-vested bow'rs,  
 Lull thine ambrosial hours,  
 And wed enervate trills to tinkling rhymes.  
 But rouse, thou God, by furies drest  
 In helm with terror-plumed crest,  
 In adamantine steel bedight,  
 Glist'ring formidably bright,

## NOTE.

\* This very juvenile imitation of the Allegro and Penseroso of MILTON, and that which follows it, were written some time previous to that of the Lycidas. (See Poem I. of this Volume.) A copy of the above was many years ago surreptitiously printed in a magazine, and afterwards inserted in Pearch's Miscellany. On this account, I thought it right to revise and now publish it (1797.) The counterpart to it was, with my assent, first printed in the Cambridge Verses on the Peace of Aix la Chappelle; and stands here as it did formerly.

With step unfixt, and aspect wild,  
 Jealous Juno's raging child,  
 Who thee conceiv'd in Flora's bower,  
 By touch of rare Olenian flower.\*  
 Oft the Goddess sigh'd in vain,  
 Envyng Jove's prolific brain,  
 And oft old Ocean heard her moan,  
 Bending from his coral throne ;  
 At length through Flora's groves she stray'd,  
 Kind Flora lent her fragrant aid ;  
 Then fruitful grown, her ivory car  
 With harness'd peacocks cut the air,  
 And circling wide Propontis round,  
 She lands at length on Thracian ground ;  
 There teems thee forth, of nervous mould,  
 Haughty, sanguine, fierce, and bold ;  
 Names thee Mars, and bids thee call  
 The world from Pleasure's silken thrall.  
 Come, thou Genius of the War,  
 Roll me in thine iron car,  
 And as thy coursers pierce the sky,  
 Breathing fury as they fly,  
 Let Courage hurry swift before,  
 All stain'd around with purple gore,

## NOTE.

\* So called from Olenas, a city in Peloponesus, where, according to Ovid, this flower first grew. The story is told by him in his *Fasti*. Lib. V. v. 231.



And Vict'ry follow close behind  
 With wreath of palm and laurel join'd,  
 While high in ether Fame assumes  
 Her place, and waves her eagle plumes.  
 Then, whilst her trumpet swells the note  
 Roaring rough through brazen throat,  
 Let drums, with many a beat maintain,  
 The measure of the martial strain ;  
 Hautboys, clarions too be found,  
 Nor be miss'd the fife's shrill found,  
 Nor yet the Scottish bag-pipes strain,  
 Dear delight of Highland swain ;  
 Whether on some mountain's brow  
 Now squeaking high, now droning low,  
 It guides the steps of many a lass  
 Tripping it featly on the grass ;  
 Or whether in the battle's fray  
 Some ancient Caledonian lay  
 It boldly blows, to fill the train  
 With fury mixt with proud disdain,  
 Strike ev'ry fire from ev'ry mind,  
 Nor leave one latent spark behind.  
 Bear me now to tented ground,  
 Where gallant streamers wave around,  
 And British ensigns, wide display'd,  
 Lend the earth a scarlet shade,  
 And pikes, and spears, and lances bright  
 Dart around a silver light ;

There to join the hardy crowd,  
 As they sport in gamesome mood,  
 Wrestling on the circled ground,  
 Wreathing limbs with limbs around ;  
 Or see them pitch the massy bar,  
 Or teach the disk to whiz in air.  
 Then, at night's return, regale  
 With chat full blunt, and chirping ale,  
 While some voice of manly bass  
 Sings my darling Chevy Chase ;  
 How the child, that's yet unborn,  
 May rue Earl PERCY's hound and horn ;  
 How WITHERINGTON, in doleful dumps,  
 Fought right valiant on his stumps ;  
 And many a knight and 'squire full gay  
 At morn, or night, were clad in clay ;  
 While first and last, we join to sing,  
 " God prosper long our noble King."

Thus, till midnight spreads around  
 Her sable vestments o'er the ground,  
 Then, I'll for a studious seat  
 To some strong citadel retreat,  
 By ditch and rampart high ypent,  
 And batt'ry strong, and battlement.  
 There in some store-room richly dight,  
 With coats of mail, and falchions bright,  
 Emblazon'd shields of impress quaint,  
 Erst borne at tilt and tournament ;

There while the taper burneth blue  
 (As Brutus once was wont to do)  
 Let me turn the ample page  
 Of some grave, historic sage ;  
 Or in Homer's sacred song,  
 Mix the Grecian bands among,  
 Or list to Virgil's epic lyre,  
 Or lofty Lucan's wrapt in fire,  
 But rather still let Shakspeare's muse  
 Her genuine British flame diffuse ;  
 And briskly with her magic strain  
 Hurry me to Gallic plain,  
 What time the gallant Talbot bleeds,  
 Or when heav'n-prosper'd Harry leads  
 His bands, with sevenfold courage steel'd,  
 To Agincourt's immortal field.  
 Yet soon as morn begins to spread  
 The orient pale with streaming red,  
 And the shrill cornets from afar  
 Stoutly swell the note of war ;  
 Then, as th' embattled files advance,  
 O MARS ! my ev'ry thought entrance.  
 Guide me, thou terrific God !  
 Guide through glory's arduous road,  
 While Conquest, with gigantic pace  
 Stalks before, and shakes his mace ;  
 While hailing bullets round me fly,  
 And human thunders rend the sky,

With armour clanking, clarions sounding,  
 Cannons bellowing, shouts rebounding,  
 " Guide me, thou terrific God !  
 " Guide through glory's arduous road."  
 But, should on land thy triumphs cease,  
 Still bear me from the scenes of peace ;  
 Me lead, dread power ! for warlike sport  
 To some wave-encircled fort,  
 Or, if it yield more open sight,  
 To some hoar promontory's height,  
 Whose high-arch'd cliff, with bending brow,  
 Frowns on the foaming surge below ;  
 There eagerly to ken from far,  
 All the burst of naval war,  
 And glow with sympathetic rage,  
 While th' embattled fleets engage,  
 And ev'ry distant shore rebounds  
 To their cannons rattling sounds ;  
 When the sulphurous fire-ship rends,  
 And thousand deaths around her sends,  
 And limbs dissever'd, hurl'd on high,  
 Smoke amid th' affrighted sky.  
 But, while I gaze, if envious night  
 Shuts the grand prospect from my sight,  
 Still let thy vot'ry hear from far  
 The sound of elemental war,  
 Hark to the distant thunder's roll,  
 Nor, till its last concluding growl,

Permit dull Morpheus to apply  
His leaden finger to my eye ;  
And then, even then, let Fancy's power  
Exhaust her visionary store,  
To paint some mighty city's state  
Besieg'd, and nodding to its fate ;  
Above whose heav'n-devoted fanes,  
Portentous comets sweep their trains,  
And vultures, fierce in martial'd flight,  
With beaks and claws wage bloody fight ;  
And armed knights, a ghostly crowd,  
Prick forth from ev'ry op'ning cloud  
With blazing swords of portent dire,  
And minute glares of meteor fire ;  
Such erst as shot their livid gleam,  
Down on besieg'd Jerusalem,  
Or hung o'er Rome e'er Julius fell,  
And, if old sages truly spell,  
Are dread prognostics that foreshow,  
Convulsions in our realms below.  
And, when at last cold creeping age  
Freezes the current of my rage,  
Let me retire amidst a troop  
Of invalids, a veteran group,  
Bereft of some main limb by war,  
Or justly proud to show the scar  
They gain'd, when fighting in the cause  
Of Albion's liberty and laws ;

With these full cheerly I'll retire,  
 To circle round a sea-coal fire,  
 Hear them their past campaigns recite  
 Of Vigo's sack and Blenheim fight.  
 And, when my children round me throng,  
 The same brave themes shall grace my tongue,  
 To teach them, should fair England need  
 Their blood, 'tis their's to wish to bleed ;  
 And, as I speak, behold them glow,  
 And flash their eye, and knit their brow ;  
 While I, with heart-felt bliss elate,  
 Sit proudly in paternal state,  
 Gaze on each half-form'd warrior face,  
 And all their future fortunes trace ;  
 That this, my ruddy, first-born boy  
 On land his Sov'reign shall employ ;  
 The next o'er Ocean's wide domain  
 Boldly assert Britannia's reign,  
 And firm in freedom's cause advance  
 The scourge of slav'ry, and of France.  
 These delights if MARS afford,  
 MARS ! with thee I whet my sword.

Written in 1744.

## IL PACIFICO.

**H**ENCE, pestilential **MARS**,  
 Of sable-vested Night and Chaos bred,  
 On matter's formless bed,  
 Mid the harsh din of elemental jars :  
 Hence with thy frantic crowd,  
 Wing'd Flight, pale Terror, Discord cloth'd in fire,  
 Precipitate retire ;  
 While mad Bellona cracks her snaky thong,  
 And hurries headlong on,  
 To Ach'ron's brink and Phlegethon's flaming flood.  
 But hail, fair **PEACE**, so mild and meek,  
 With polish'd brow and rosy cheek,  
 That, on thy fleece-white cloud descending,  
 Hither, soft-ey'd Queen, art tending,  
 Gently o'er thy fav'rite land  
 To wave thy genial myrtle wand :  
 To shake from off thy turtle wing  
 Th' ambrosial dews of endless spring ;  
 Spring, like that which poets feign,  
 Gilded Saturn's easy reign :  
 For Saturn's first-born daughter thou ;  
 Unless, as later bards avow,  
 The youthful God with spangled hair  
 Closely clasp'd **HARMONIA** fair :

For, banish'd erst Heav'n's star-pav'd floor,  
 (As sings my legendary lore)  
 As Phœbus sat by weeping brook,  
 With shepherd's scrip and shepherd's crook,  
 Pensive 'midst a savage train  
 (For savage then was all the plain)  
 Fair Harmonia left her bow'r,  
 To join her radiant paramour :  
 Hence didst thou spring ; and at thy birth  
 Lenient Zephyrs fann'd the earth,  
 Rumbling thunders growl'd no more,  
 Prowling wolves forgot to roar,  
 And man, whom fiercer rage possest,  
 Smil'd dissension from his breast.  
 She comes, she comes : ye Nymphs, prepare  
 Gay floral wreaths to bind your hair ;  
 Ye swains, inspire the mellow flute  
 To dulcet strains, which aptly suit  
 The featly-footed saraband  
 Of Phillis trim and Marian bland,  
 When nimbly light each simp'ring lass  
 Trips it o'er the pliant grass.  
 But see, her social smiling train  
 Now invests th' enraptur'd plain !  
 Plenty's treasure-teeming horn  
 Show'rs its fruits, its flow'rs, its corn ;  
 Commerce spreads his amplest sail ;  
 Strong-nerv'd Labour lifts his flail



Sylvanus too attends, ('tis he  
 That bears the root-pluck'd cypress tree)  
 He shall my youngling footsteps lead  
 Through tufted lawn and fringed mead,  
 By scooped valley, heaped hill,  
 Level river, dancing rill,  
 Where the shepherds all appear,  
 To shear and wash their fleecy care,  
 Which bleating stand the streams around,  
 And whiten all the close-cropp'd ground :  
 Or when the maids in bonnets sheen  
 Cock the hay upon the green ;  
 Or up yon steep rough road the swains  
 Drive slow along their rolling wains,  
 (Where laughing Ceres crowns the stack,  
 And makes the pond'rous axle crack),  
 Then to the village on the hill,  
 The barn's capacious jaws to fill,  
 Where the answ'ring flails rebound  
 Beating bold with thund'ring sound.  
 Enchanted with this rural scene,  
 Here let me weave my arb'retts green :  
 Here arch the woodbine, mantling neat  
 O'er my noontide cool retreat ;  
 Or bind the oak with ivy-twine ;  
 Or wed the elm and purpling vine.  
 But, if my vagrant fancy pants  
 For charms that simple nature wants,

Grant, Power benign, admittance free  
 To some rang'd academy :  
 There to give to arts refin'd  
 All the impulse of my mind ;  
 And oft observant take my stand,  
 Where the painter's magic hand  
 From sketches rude, with gradual art,  
 Calls dawning life to ev'ry part,  
 Till, with nice tints all labour'd high,  
 Each starting hero meets the eye :  
 Oft too, oh ! let me nice inspect  
 The draughts of justest architect :  
 And hence delighted let me pass,  
 Where others mold the ductile brass ;  
 Or teach the Parian stone to wear  
 A letter'd sage's musing air.  
 But ah ! these Arts have fix'd their home  
 In Roman or in Gallic dome :  
 Though strange beseems, that Arts should spread  
 Where frowns black Slav'ry's baleful shade ;  
 And stranger far that Arts decay  
 Where Freedom deals her warmest ray.  
 This then deny'd ; I'll swift retreat,  
 Where Camus winds with murmur sweet :  
 There teach me, piercing Locke, t' explore  
 The busy mind's ideal store ;  
 There, heav'n-rapt Newton, guide my way  
 'Mid rolling worlds, through floods of day,

To mark the vagrant comet's road,  
 And through his wonders trace the God.  
 Then, to unbend my mind, I'll roam  
 Amid the cloister's silent gloom :  
 Or, where rang'd oaks their shades diffuse,  
 Hold dalliance with my darling Muse,  
 Recalling oft some heav'n-born strain,  
 That warbled in Augustan reign ;  
 Or turn, well pleas'd, the Grecian page,  
 If sweet Theocritus engage ;  
 Or blith Anacreon, mirthful wight,  
 Caroll his easy love-lay light.  
 Yet let not all my pleasure lie  
 Confin'd to one Phœbeian joy ;  
 But ever give my fingers wings  
 Lightly to skim the trembling strings,  
 And from some bow'r to tune the lay :  
 While list'ning birds crowd every spray,  
 Or hovering silent o'er my head,  
 Their quiv'ring wings exulting spread ;  
 Save but the turtles, they alone  
 With tender plaintive faithful moan,  
 Shall tell, to all the secret grove,  
 Their soft thick-warbled tale of love :  
 Sweet birds ! your mingling bliss pursuing,  
 Ever billing, ever cooing,  
 Ye ! constant pair ! I love to note  
 Your hoarse strain gurgling in your throat ;

And, ye unheard, from sidelong hills  
 The liquid lapse of whisp'ring rills,  
 I hist to hear : such sounds diffuse  
 Sweet transports to the thoughtful Muse.  
 Thus Summer sees me brisk and light,  
 'Till Winter spreads her 'kerchief white ;  
 Then to the city's social walls,  
 Where tolling clock to business calls.  
 There the weaver's shuttle speeds  
 Nimble through the fine-spun threads :  
 There the vocal anvil rings,  
 While the smith his hammer swings ;  
 And ev'ry man and ev'ry boy  
 Briskly join in warm employ.  
 Through such throng'd scenes full oft I'll range,  
 Oft crowd into the rich Exchange :  
 Or to yon wharf ; aside the mote,  
 Where the anchor'd ships do float,  
 And others, hast'ning into bay,  
 Swell their sails in fair array :  
 Wafting to Albion's sons the store,  
 That each Peruvian mine can pour ;  
 Wafting to Albion's smiling dames  
 The ruby's glow, the diamond's flames,  
 'Till all the Indies rush into the Thames.  
 Joys vast as these my fancy claims ;  
 And joys like these, if PEACE inspire,  
 PEACE with thee I string the lyre.

AN EPISTOLARY ADDRESS

TO THE

AUTHOR'S FATHER,

SENT FROM LONDON IN THE YEAR 1746.\*

*Surgat in officium venerandi Musa Parentis*

MILTONUS *ad Patrem.*

HERE pause, fair Fancy, † in thy flow'ry way  
The varied verse, the imitative lay  
Reject awhile ; discard each fabling dream ;  
Paternal praise be now thy nobler theme ;  
And if the Muse, who through the realms of song  
Gave Pope, now mute, to lead the tuneful throng,  
In whose warm heart with mingling fervour shone  
The glowing Poet and the tender Son,  
His duteous heart and filial feelings pour  
Through every artless line, I ask no more.

Enough for me, if he, whose name I bear,  
With wonted candour bend his partial ear ;

NOTES.

\* First printed 1797.

† Alluding to Musæus and the two foregoing imitations of MILTON, which the Author was then composing, but had not quite finished.

Enough, if he who always lov'd to blend  
Advice with smiles, the father with the friend,  
Accept the verse, how vain soe'er it prove,  
Which aims to pay its tribute to the love,  
That ever blest me since my course began,  
From tender childhood to the dawn of man ;  
Nor in that course did e'er one boon refuse,  
A son might ask, and innocence might use.

Can I forget, when first my infant ear  
Caught each new melody it chanc'd to hear,  
How prompt to foster seeds, that nature sow'd,  
A master skill'd his gen'rous care bestow'd,  
To teach how concord and how discord meet,  
And form one strain methodically sweet ?

Alike when active Fancy tried to trace  
The rural landscape, or impassion'd face,  
How to my aid he brought each written rule,  
And free design of Painting's various school ?

How, when my thoughts first flow'd in tinkling chime,  
He smooth'd the verse, reform'd each faulty rhyme,  
Nor check'd the Muse, just waking, in the strain,  
Lest love of verse should quench the love of gain,  
But smil'd assenting, fann'd the kindling fire,  
And sunk the critic in the partial sire ?

Much thanks for these; for arts like these have pow'r  
 To grace the chearful, sooth the peusive hour.  
 These shall dispense their calm, yet lively, joys,  
 When study pauses, or when business cloys;  
 Nor one dull hour drawl sullenly along,  
 While paint can please, or harmony, or song.

Thro' graver science now my steps to guide,  
 As years advance, see Marg'ret's dome supply'd  
 Her arching cloysters and her glimm'ring groves,  
 All, study claims, all, contemplation loves,  
 Are amply given; and, if I wish for more,  
 The town expands, and Thames, thy splendid shore!  
 Here free to rove, here feast my mind and eyes,  
 "Here catch the manners living as they rise,"  
 Here men with books impartially compare,  
 Learn what they should be, smile at what they are;  
 For Vanity, the world's despotic queen,  
 Ere we can know her truly, must be seen;  
 And if plain sense her steady glass supplies,  
 The more we see, the more we shall despise.

Permit me then, my Sire, awhile to view,  
 Thro' that clear perspective, her motley crew;  
 Nor fear thy son, by Fashion's frippery smit,  
 Should shun the Christian and pursue the Wit:  
 But sated quite, relinquishing with joy  
 Those vain delights, that soon as tasted cloy;

Each passion cool'd, that boils the tide of youth,  
Each error purg'd, that dims the sight of truth,  
O! may no wish for more his bosom own,  
But all his manners speak him all thy son.

For, know, each academic duty paid,  
Soon will he haste to his paternal shade ;  
There, fraught (great task) with Reason's nerve to tame  
That hydra of the soul the thirst of fame ;  
His youthful breast, by years mature refin'd,  
May shine the mirror of thy blameless mind,  
And, free from public, as domestic, strife,  
Slide thro' the tranquil stream of private life ;  
Yet, still alive to ev'ry social call,  
Glow with that charity, which feels for all.

There too to truths divine may he aspire,  
Wing'd and conducted by his practis'd Sire :  
Pursue his flight, upborn on Faith's strong plume,  
Nor fear of youthful Icarus the doom,  
From Falsehood's maze sav'd by his guiding clue,  
Rise as he rises, keep him still in view,  
The Minotaur of Vice beneath him hurl'd,  
And 'scap'd that worst of labyrinths, the World.



STANZAS,

WRITTEN ON THE BANKS OF THE CAM,  
1746.

To court, in May's mild month, the Muse  
Along the sedgy bank I stray'd,  
Where slow-pac'd Cam his course pursues  
Amid the daisy-painted mead.

High o'er my head, the Solar sphere  
Flung far and wide his sparkling beams ;  
His sparkling beams as bright appear  
Reflected from the silver streams.

Below each languid Zephyr died,  
Each slender reed forgot to play,  
Without a rill the even tide  
Slided silently away.

Yet, from its surface to its base,  
So clear the chrystal fluid spread,  
My gazing eye, distinct could trace  
The finny inmates of its bed.

At length the Muse her votary join'd,  
With me the busy scene she view'd,  
And, fancy waking in my mind,  
A flow of numbers thus ensued.

“ See, how those rose-finn'd perch delight  
“ High as th' incumbent air to glide,  
“ Each leaf each straw their chase excite,  
“ That bouyant sail along the tide.

“ On Learning's surface thus the youth  
“ Too oft devotes each precious hour,  
“ For modern whim scorns ancient truth,  
“ And quits the fruit, to smell the flower.

“ But hark ! I heard a bubbling noise,  
“ How quick yon trout pursu'd a fly !  
“ Yet see ! the nimble insect plies  
“ His wing, and safe ascends the sky.

“ Say, Muse ! to what shall we compare  
“ The scaly fool's successful aim ?  
“ Tis thus that all deluded are,  
“ Who merely act, or write for fame.

“ See far below, yon eel conceal'd  
“ In mud its circling volume leads,  
“ Now thro' the water half reveal'd,  
“ Now tangled in a grove of reeds ;

“ So fares the man, who, gravely vain,  
“ Thro’ each profound of Learning wanders,  
“ Scruples and doubts perplex his brain  
“ In long and intricate meanders.

“ There too a half-gorg’d pike appears,  
“ Whose maw or frogs or gudgeons sate,  
“ After a labouring length of years,  
“ Such is the musty pedant’s fate.

“ But see, its height and depth between,  
“ Yon scaly tribe or pause or play,  
“ Now hanging in the fluid scene,  
“ Now straying as its currents stray ;

“ Their course no straws divert above,  
“ No mud, or reeds obstruct below,  
“ Freely their oary fins they move,  
“ As nature dictates, swift or slow.

“ So, through life’s current let me glide,  
“ Nor sink too low, nor rise too high,  
“ Safe if Content my progress guide,  
“ And golden Mediocrity.”

## I S I S.\*

## A MONOLOGUE. †

Ω δύσληνος  
 Τί ποτ' οὐ δὴ που  
 Εἰγ' ἀπισίουσαν, τοῖς βασιλεῖοι-  
 σιν ἄγουσι νόμοις,  
 Καὶ ἐν ἀφροσυνῇ καθιλόνηες.      SOPHOCLES in Antig.

FAR from her hallow'd grot, where mildly bright  
 The pointed crystals shot their trembling light,

## NOTES.

\* It was said, in an advertisement prefixt to the first quarto edition, that, “ the following Poem would never have appeared in print, had not an interpolated copy of it, published in a country newspaper, scandalously misrepresented the principles of the Author;” which parody, before the publication of the original, was reprinted in the London Evening Post, and generally supposed to be written by the late Dr. BYROM of Manchester. Very soon after Mr. T. WARTON, afterwards Poet Laureat, printed an elegant answer to it, entitled, the Triumph of Isis. But ere this Author (then young) was convinced that the satire it contained, though mixed as it was with true panegyric, was too severe; he therefore forbore to reprint it in any of the former editions of his Poems. However, as Mr. WARTON's Poem has been, with this reprinted in certain Miscellanies, and as the former holds a place in his volume, it it was thought proper here to give it a place.—Certain it is that the spirit of Jacobitism, which had obtained in both our Universities before the year 1745, was far from being quite extinguished in 1748, when this Poem was written. May the more recent spirit of Jacobinism (if now it infects either of them) have a still quicker termination! (re-published 1797.)

† It was originally entituled an Elegy; but the term is altered as not being written in alternatè rhymes, which since Mr. GRAY's exquisite Elegy in the Country Church-yard has generally obtained, and seems to be more suited to that species of Poem.

From dripping moss where sparkling dew-drops fell,  
 Where coral glow'd, where twin'd the wreathed shell,  
 Pale Isis lay ; a willow's lowly shade  
 Spread its thin foliage o'er the pensive maid ;  
 Clos'd was her eye, and from her heaving breast  
 In careless folds loose fell her zoneless vest ;  
 While down her neck her vagrant tresses flow  
 In all the awful negligence of woe ;  
 Her urn sustain'd her arm, that sculptur'd vase  
 Where Vulcan's art had lavish'd all it's grace ;  
 Here, full with life was heav'n-taught Science seen,  
 Known by the laurel wreath and musing mein :  
 There cloud-crown'd Fame, here Peace sedate and bland  
 Swell'd the loud trump, and wav'd the olive wand ;  
 While solemn domes, arch'd shades, and vistas green  
 At well-mark'd distance close the sacred scene.

On this the Goddess cast an anxious look,  
 Then dropt a tender tear, and thus she spoke :  
 " Yes, I cou'd once with pleas'd attention trace  
 The mimic charms of this prophetic vase ;  
 Then lift my head, and with enraptur'd eyes  
 View on yon plain the real glories rise.  
 Yes, Isis ! oft hast thou rejoic'd to lead  
 Thy liquid treasures o'er yon fav'rite mead,  
 Oft hast thou stopt thy pearly car to gaze,  
 While every science nurs'd its growing bays :  
 While ev'ry youth, with Fame's strong impulse fir'd,  
 Prest to the goal, and at the goal untir'd

Snatch'd each celestial wreath to bind his brow,  
The Muses, Graces, Virtues could bestow.

“ E'en now fond Fancy leads the ideal train,  
And ranks her troops on Mem'ry's ample plain ;  
See ! the firm leaders of my patriot line,  
See ! SIDNEY, RALEIGH, HAMDEN, SOMERS shine.  
See HOUGH superior to a tyrant's doom  
Smile at the menace of the slave of Rome.  
Each soul whom Truth could fire, or Virtue move,  
Each breast strong panting with its country's love,  
All that to Albion gave the heart or head,  
That wisely counsell'd, or that bravely bled,  
All, all appear ; on me they grateful smile,  
The well-earn'd prize of every virtuous toil  
To me with filial reverence they bring,  
And hang fresh trophies o'er my honour'd spring.

“ Ah ! I remember well yon beachen spray,  
There ADDISON first tun'd his polish'd lay ;  
'Twas there great CATO's form first met his eye,  
In all the pomp of free-born majesty.  
“ My Son, he cry'd, observe this mein with awe,  
“ In solemn lines the strong resemblance draw ;  
“ The piercing notes shall strike each *British* ear,  
“ Each British eye shall drop the patriot tear ;  
“ And, rous'd to glory by the nervous strain,  
“ Each youth shall spurn at Slav'ry's abject reign,

“ Shall guard with Cato’s zeal Britannia’s laws,  
“ And speak, and act, and bleed, in Freedom’s cause.”

The Hero spoke, the Bard assenting bow’d,  
The lay to liberty and Cato flow’d ;  
While Echo, as she rov’d the vale along,  
Join’d the strong cadence of his Roman song.

“ But ah ! how Stillness slept upon the ground,  
How mute Attention check’d each rising sound ;  
Scarce stole a breeze to wave the leafy spray,  
Scarce trill’d sweet Philomel her softest lay,  
When **LOCKE** walk’d musing forth ; ev’n now I view  
Majestic Wisdom thron’d upon his brow,  
View Candour smile upon his modest cheek,  
And from his eye all Judgment’s radiance break.  
’Twas here the Sage his manly zeal exprest,  
Here stript vain Falsehood of her gaudy vest ;  
Here Truth’s collected beams first fill’d his mind,  
Ere long to burst in blessings on mankind ;  
Ere long to show to Reason’s purged eye,  
That “ **NATURE’S FIRST BEST GIFT WAS LIBERTY.**”

“ Proud of this wond’rous son, sublime I stood,  
(While louder surges swell’d my rapid flood)  
Then vain as Niobe exulting cry’d,  
Ilissus ! roll thy fam’d Athenian tide ;

Though Plato's steps oft mark'd thy neighb'ring glade,  
 Though fair Lycæum lent its awful shade,  
 Though ev'ry academic green imprest  
 Its image full on thy reflecting breast,  
 Yet my pure stream shall boast as proud a name,  
 And Britain's Isis flow with Attic fame.

“ Alas ! how chang'd ! where now that Attic boast ?  
 See ! Gothic Licence rage o'er all my coast.  
 See ! Hydra Faction spread its impious reign,  
 Poison each breast, and madden ev'ry brain.  
 Hence frontless crowds that, not content to fright  
 The blushing Cynthia from her throne of night,  
 Blast the fair face of day ; and madly bold,  
 To Freedom's foes infernal orgies hold ;  
 To Freedom's foes, ah ! see the goblet crown'd !  
 Hear plausive shouts to Freedom's foes resound !  
 The horrid notes my refluent waters daunt,  
 The Echoes groan, the Dryads quit their haunt ;  
 Learning, that once to all diffus'd her beam,  
 Now sheds by stealth a partial private gleam  
 In some lone cloister's melancholy shade,  
 Where a firm few support her sickly head ;  
 Despis'd, insulted by the barb'rous train,  
 Who scour, like Thracia's moon-struck rout, the plain,  
 Sworn foes like them to all the Muse approves,  
 All Phœbus favours, or Minerva loves.



“ Are these the sons my fost’ring breast must rear?  
 Grac’d with my name, and nurtur’d by my care,  
 Must these go forth from my maternal hand  
 To deal their insults through a peaceful land,  
 And boast, while Freedom bleeds and Virtue groans,  
 That “ Isis taught sedition to her sons?”  
 Forbid it heav’n! and let my rising waves  
 Indignant swell, and whelm the recreant slaves,  
 In England’s cause their patriot floods employ,  
 As Xanthus delug’d in the cause of Troy.  
 Is this deny’d? Then point some secret way  
 Where far far hence these guiltless streams may stray,  
 Some unknown channel lend, where nature spreads  
 Inglorious vales and unfrequented meads;  
 There, where a hind scarce tunes his rustic strain,  
 Where scarce a pilgrim treads the pathless plain,  
 Content I’ll flow; forget that e’er my tide  
 Saw yon majestic structures crown its side;  
 Forget that e’er my rapt attention hung  
 Or on the Sage’s or the Poet’s tongue,  
 Calm and resign’d my humbler lot embrace,  
 And pleas’d prefer oblivion to disgrace.”

**PROTOGENES AND APELLES.\***

(ALTERED FROM PRIOR.)

**W**HEN Poets wrote, and Painters drew,  
 As Nature pointed out the view ;  
 Ere Gothic forms were known in Greece,  
 To spoil the well-proportioned piece ;  
 And in our verse ere monkish rhymes  
 Had jangled their fantastic chimes ;  
 Ere on the flow'ry land of RHODES  
 Those Knights had fix'd their dull abodes,  
 Who knew not much to paint or write,  
 Nor car'd to pray, nor dar'd to fight :  
 PROTOGENES, historians note,  
 Liv'd there, a burgess scot and lot ;

NOTE.

\* The exquisite humour with which PRIOR has enlivened the plain tale which he took from PLINY, it is hoped will not be much impaired by the following few alterations, attempted for no other purpose than to elucidate the original story, which it is thought, has not hitherto been perfectly understood; not from any defect in PLINY's narrative (as his last translator, M. FALCONET would make us believe), but from the blunder of the old Commentators, and the inattention of the latter to the whole passage. The alterations are printed in italics, and Prior's original lines at the bottom of the respective pages.

And, as old **PLINY**'s writings show,  
**APELLES** did the same at Co.  
 Agreed these points of time and place,  
 Proceed we in the present case.

Piqu'd by **PROTOGENES**'s fame,  
 From Co to **RHODES APELLES** came  
 To see a rival and a friend,  
 Prepare to censure, or commend,  
 Here to absolve, and there object,  
 As art with candour might direct.  
 He sails, he lands, he comes, he rings,  
 His servants follow with the things :  
 Appears the governante of th' house,  
 For such in Greece were much in use ;—  
 If young or handsome, yea or no,  
 Concerns not me, or thee, to know.

Does 'Squire **PROTOGENES** live here ?  
 Yes, Sir, says she, with gracious air,  
 And curtsy low ; but just call'd out  
 By lords peculiarly devout ;  
 Who came on purpose, Sir, to borrow  
 Our **VENUS**, for the feast to-morrow,  
 To grace the church : 'tis Venus day :  
 I hope, Sir, you intend to stay  
 To see our Venus : 'tis the piece  
 The most renown'd throughout all Greece,

So like th' original, they say ;  
 But I have no great skill that way.  
 But, Sir, at six ('tis now past three)  
**DROMO** must take my Master's tea.  
 At six, Sir, if you please to come,  
 You'll find my Master, Sir, at home.

Tea, says a Critic, big with laughter,  
 Was found some twenty ages after :  
 Authors, before they write, should read.  
 'Tis very true ;—but we'll proceed.

And, Sir, at present, would you please  
 To leave your name ?——Fair maiden, yes.  
 Reach me that board. No sooner spoke  
 But done. With one judicious stroke,  
 \* *APELLES* *delicately drew*  
*A line retiring from the view,*  
*And quick as sportsmen draw their trigger,*  
*Produc'd a fine fore-shorten'd figure.*  
 And will you please, sweetheart, said he,  
 To show your Master this from me ?  
 By it he presently will know,  
 How Painters write their names at Co.

---

\* O'er the plain ground *APELLES* drew  
 A circle regularly true.      **PRIOR.**

He gave the pannel to the maid.  
 Smiling and curt'sing, Sir, she said,  
 I shall not fail to tell my Master :  
 And, Sir, for fear of all disaster,  
 I'll keep it my own self :—safe bind,  
 Says the old proverb, and safe find.  
 So, Sir, as sure as key or lock——  
 Your servant, Sir——at six o'clock.

Again at six APELLES came ;  
 Found the same prating civil dame.  
 Sir, that my Master has been here,  
 Will by the board itself appear.  
*\*If in the sketch you chose to draw,  
 He found, you'll pardon me, a flaw—  
 And tried to make a nicer line,  
 You must not think the fault was mine ;  
 For he, strange man ! will have his way.  
 (I'm sure I find it night and day)  
 And when 'twas done, he bade me say,*  
 Thus write the Painters of this Isle :  
 Let those of Co remark the style.

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\* If, from the perfect line he found,  
 He has presum'd to swell the round,  
 Or colours on the draught to lay,  
 'Tis thus he order'd me to say. P.

She said ; and to his hand restor'd  
The rival pledge, the missive board.  
\* APELLES *saw a truer stroke,*  
*Now here, now there, his own had broke ;*  
*This gave the Artist a new hint,*  
*With pencil of a different tint,*  
*To trace, o'er both the lines together,*  
*A third, more elegant than either.*  
*And by its subtle intersection,*  
*He brought the drawing to perfection.*

*The COAN now review'd the piece ;*  
And live, said he, the Arts of Greece !  
Howe'er PROTOGENES and I  
May in our rival talents vie ;  
Howe'er our works may have express'd  
Who truest drew, or coloured best—  
When he beheld my flowing line,  
He found at least I could design,  
† *But now I've made it quite complete ;*  
*I trust 'twill cause us soon too meet.*

---

\* Upon the happy line was laid  
Such obvious light, such easy shade  
That Paris' apple stood confess'd,  
Or Leda's egg, or Cloe's breast. P.

† And from his artful round I grant  
That he with perfect skill can paint.  
APELLES view'd the finish'd piece. P.

*It did. Protogenes beheld  
The Sketch, and own'd himself excell'd.  
Then to the port he ran in haste  
And clasp'd with friendly arms his guest.*

The dullest genius cannot fail  
To find the moral of my tale ;  
That the distinguish'd part of men,  
With compass, pencil, sword, or pen,  
Should in life's visit leave their name  
In characters, which may proclaim,  
That they with ardour strove to raise  
At once their arts, and country's praise,  
*\* And free from envy, spleen, and spite,*  
*Took each their patriotic flight ;*  
*Like the two worthies of my story,*  
*On mutual plumes, to mutual glory.*

---

\* And, in their working, took great care,  
That all was full, and round, and fair. P.

## N O T E S,

## EXPLANATORY OF THE FOREGOING ALTERATIONS.

## I.

APELLES delicately drew

A line, retiring from the view, &c.

THAT the efforts of APELLES, which PLINY thus describes—*“ Abrepto Penicillo Lineam duxit summæ tenuitatis per tabulam ”*—was a single outline; or, as DURAND expresses it—*“ Un Desein au simple trait, ”*—(of which there are many examples in the drawings of M. Angelo, Raffaele, and others of the Italian school) has been a matter long decided; and that it either represented a perfect circle, according to PRIOR (who probably borrowed that idea from PERAULT), or any other accurate geometrical figure, cannot reasonably be conjectured. But PLINY afterwards tells us, that this design, after APELLES had drawn it, and PROTOGENES had retouched it; and finally, when APELLES had perfected it, exhibited *tres lineas visum effugientes*.\*

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\* DURAND translates this phrase, *“ Trois deseines au simple trait et de la dernière finesse que eschappoient la vue par leur subtilité. ”* This paraphrase give us the idea of three designs faintly expressed, so as to be almost invisible: M. FALCONET takes it in the same sense, and accordingly ridicules the idea, which has led me to conclude, that the original drawing was that of a fore-shortened figure, because I think no words can better express this technical term than those which the Author has here used, and which therefore, I have literally translated. If this opinion be admitted, it will make the contest between the two painters what it should be; because, to fore shorten a figure



## II.

And tried to make a nicer line.

*Subtilitas* and *Tenuitas* are the two words which PLINY uses, as it should seem synonymously, to describe the elegance of the Lines which the two Painters alternately drew. DU PILES, in his *Vie de Peintres*, justly remarks, that they relate not so much to the lines themselves, as to the intelligence of the art with which they were traced. I have put the epithet *nicer* here in the mouth of the servant, as the term she would be likely to use to express that idea.

## III.

To trace o'er both the lines together.

THIS last exertion of APOLLO, PLINY describes thus: *Tertio colore lineas secuit nullum relinquens subtilitati locum*. The older Commentators first imagining that *linea* meant merely what writing-masters call a fine hair-stroke, naturally enough, yet

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accurately, though it may not be one of the greatest beauties, is certainly one of the greatest difficulties of the art: the drawing in question would therefore be principally admired by artists, as PLINY tells us it was—*omnium quidem sed artificum præcipue miraculo*. If I am asked to produce a passage, where the author has used the same terms to imply the same thing, I can only reply, that PLINY, when in a subsequent passage he describes a picture of the Sacrifice by PAUSIAS, in which there was an ox extremely fore-shortened, makes use of a much longer periphrasis—*Quum longitudinem Bovis ostendere velit advorsum eum pinxit non transvorsum et abunde intelligitur magnitudo*. Modern writers, it is certain, deal more in technical terms than the ancients did, and I suspect that if there had been in Latin a technical term for what English painters call *fore-shortened*, and the French *en Raccourci*, PLINY would have thought it too inelegant, if not too inexpressive, for his use; for a good writer, treating on any particular art for public information, avoids the use of such terms as practitioners in the art have invented.

surely absurdly, concluded, that the skill of the two artists consisted in dividing the first into two finer hair-strokes. Had they only adverted to a succeeding paragraph of PLINY which informs us, that this artist made it his practice every day, *lineam ducere*, (whence the Proverb, *Nulla dies sine linea*) they must have discovered that *linea* here signified an *outline* or *contour*, and consequently that one outline might cut another transversely, but not directly through the middle, by which no design whatever could be either altered or improved. If any person, unskilled in drawing, casts his eye on the *fac-simile* etchings of BARTOLOZZI from GUERCINO, he will have a clear conception of this matter. If however he saw the first sketch of any master, corrected twice with ink of two different colours, the thing would be more evident; for PLINY tells us three differently tinged pencils were employed by APOLLONIS and PROTOGENES in this contest.

## IV.

It did. PROTOGENES beheld, &c.

WHAT is here inserted, is almost a mere transcript from PLINY—PROTOGENES victum se confessus ad portum devolavit hospitem quærens.

## V.

And free from envy, &c.

As the two last lines of PRIOR's moral did not perfectly correspond with the story, as now told, it is hoped that the four inserted in their place will convey an equally good meaning to every professor of this and all the rest of the Liberal Arts.

MATHÆI CASIMIRI.\*

Ode III. Lib. II.

SONORA buxi filia utilis,  
 Pendebis altâ, barbite, populo,  
 Dum ridet æer, et supinas  
 Sollicitat levis aura frondes.  
 Te sibilantis lenior halitus,  
 Perflabit Euri : me juvet interim,  
 Collum reclinâsse, et virenti  
 Sic temerè jacuisse ripâ.  
 Eheu ! serenum quæ nebulæ tegunt  
 Repentè cœlum ! quis sonus imbrum !  
 Surgamus. Heu semper fugaci  
 Gaudia præteritura passu !

NOTE.

\* This elegant little Ode was attempted to be translated, not only on account of its lyrical excellence, but also because the instrument described in it seemed not to be merely a fancied Poetical Lyre, but the real harp of EOLUS invented by ATHANASIUS KIRCHER, (see note to Ode IX. page 51 of this Volume.) This conjecture, it is presumed, will not appear improbable, when it is added that CASIMIR and KIRCHER were Jesuits and contemporaries. The mention of Eurus rather than Zephyrus, as a wind more proper to produce the sound, and the other circumstance of hanging it on a high tree, all seem to favour this notion, which if admitted, gives an added and appropriate beauty to the delicate original.

ODE OF CASIMIR

TRANSLATED.

**S**WEET harp, of well-fram'd box the vocal child !  
Here shalt thou hang on this tall poplar's spray,  
While ether smiles, and breezes mild  
Amid its pendant foliage play.

Eurus shall here, but borne on softest wing,  
Whisper and pant thy warbling chords among,  
While pleas'd my careless limbs I fling  
On this green bank, and mark thy song——

But lo ! what sudden clouds veil the blue skies !  
What rushing sound of rain ! Rise we with speed——  
Ah always thus, ye light-wing'd joys,  
Ye fly, and ere possess'd are fled !

SONG OF HAROLD THE VALIANT.\*

I.

MY ships to far Sicilia's coast  
Have row'd their rapid way,  
While in their van my well-man'd barque  
Spread wide her streamers gay.  
Arm'd on the poop, myself a host,  
I seem'd in glory's orb to move—  
Ah, Harold! check the empty boast,  
A Russian maiden scorns thy love.

NOTE.

\* The original of this song is preserved in an old Icelandic Chronicle, called *Knytlinga Saga*. It was translated by *BARTHO-LINUS* into Latin, and from him into French by *M. MALLET* in his *Introduction al' Histoire de Dannemarc*. Vol. II. page 287 of the *Northern Antiquities*, taken from the above work, gives it in English prose under the title of an Ode of *HAROLD* the Valiant. He was a Norwegian Prince in the middle of the eleventh century. See also five pieces of Runic poetry published by *Dr. PERCY*. It was versified with a view of being inserted in an Introduction to a projected Edition of an *History of English Poetry* (see *Memoirs of GRAY*, last Edit. Vol. IV. p. 143) and was meant so be a specimen of the first Ballad (properly so called) now extant of northern origin.

II.

To fight the foe in early youth,  
I march'd to Drontheim's field ;  
Numbers were theirs, but valour ours,  
Which forc'd that foe to yield.  
This right hand made their king a ghost :  
His youthful blood now stains the grove—  
Ah, Harold! check the empty boast,  
A Russian maiden scorns thy love.

III.

Rough was the sea, and rude the wind,  
And scanty were my crew ;  
Billows on billows o'er our deck  
With frothy fury flew :  
Deep in our hold the waves were tost,  
Back to their bed each wave we drove—  
Ah, Harold! check the empty boast,  
A Russian maiden scorns thy love.

IV.

What feat of hardihood so bold  
But Harold wots it well ?  
I curb the steed, I stem the flood,  
I fight with falchion fell ;  
The oar I ply from coast to coast,  
On ice with flying skates I rove—  
Ah, Harold! check the empty boast,  
A Russian maiden scorns thy love.

V.

Can she deny, the blooming maid,  
For she has heard the tale,  
When to the South my troops I led,  
The fortress to assail?  
How, while my prowess thinn'd the host,  
Fame bade the world each deed approve—  
Ah, Harold! check the empty boast,  
A Russian maiden scorns thy love.

VI.

On Norway's cloud-cap'd mountains bred,  
Whose sons are bow-men brave,  
I dar'd, a deed that peasants dread,  
To plough old Ocean's wave;  
By tempest driven, by dangers crost,  
Through wild, unpeopl'd climes to rove—  
Ah, Harold! check the empty boast,  
A Russian maiden scorns thy love.

S O N G.

I.

WHEN first I dar'd by soft surprise  
To breathe my love in FLAVIA's ear,  
I saw the mixt sensations rise  
Of trembling joy and pleasing fear ;  
Her cheek forgot its rosy hue,  
For what has Art with Love to do ?

II.

But soon the crimson glow return'd  
Ere half my passion was exprest,  
The eye that clos'd, the cheek that burn'd,  
The quiv'ring lip, the panting breast  
Shew'd that she wish'd or thought me true,  
For what has Art with Love to do ?

III.

Ah ! speak, I cry'd, thy soft assent :  
She strove to speak, she could but sigh ;  
A glance, more heav'nly eloquent,  
Left language nothing to supply.  
She prest my hand with fervour new ;  
For what has Art with Love to do ?



IV.

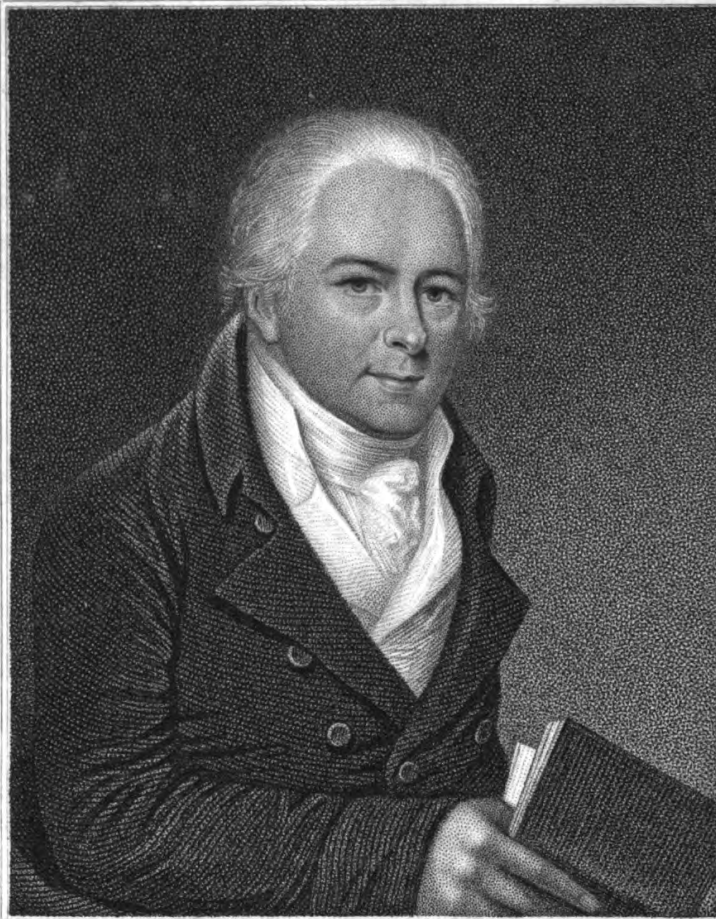
Ye practis'd nymphs, who form your charms  
By Fashion's rules, enjoy your skill ;  
Torment your swains with false alarms,  
And, ere you cure, pretend to kill :  
Still, still your sex's wiles pursue,  
Such tricks she leaves to Art and You.

V.

Secure of native powers to please,  
My FLAVIA scorns all mean pretence ;  
Her form is elegance and ease,  
Her soul is truth and innocence ;  
And these, O heartfelt ecstasy !  
She gives to Honour, Love, and Me.

July 11, 1765.





WILLIAM BURGH, ESQ. L.L.D.

*Robt. Cooper*

*Published Jan. 28. 1811, by Cadell and Davies, Strand.*

THE  
ENGLISH GARDEN:

A  
P O E M.  
IN FOUR BOOKS.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED

A COMMENTARY AND NOTES,

BY W. BURGH, ESQ. LL. D.

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A Garden is the purest of human pleasures; it is the greatest refreshment to the spirits of man, without which buildings and palaces are but gross handiworks. And a man shall ever see, that when ages grow to civility and elegancy, men come to build stately, sooner than to garden finely: as if gardening were the greater perfection.

VERULAM.



## P R E F A C E.

As the Four Books, which compose the following Poem, were published originally at very distant intervals, I thought it expedient, at the conclusion of the last, to subjoin a Postscript, in which I drew up an analysis of each of them in their order, that the general plan of the whole work, and their connection with one another, might be more accurately conceived. That short analysis is now withdrawn, being superseded by a copious and complete Commentary, which the partiality of a very ingenious and learned friend has induced him to write upon it; a work which I am persuaded will be of more utility to those readers, who wish to understand the subject, than the Poem itself will be of entertainment to that more numerous class who read merely to be entertained: for myself, as to amuse was only a secondary motive with me when I composed the work, I freely own that I am more pleased by a species of writing which tends to elucidate the principles of my Poem, and to develope its method, than I should have been with that more flattering, yet less useful one, which interested itself in displaying what little poetical merit it may possess.

Notwithstanding this, I am well aware that many persons will think my friend has taken much more pains than were necessary on this occasion ; and I should agree with them in opinion were the Poem only, and not the subject which it treats, in question : but I would wish them to discriminate between these two points, and that whatever they may think of the writer's condescension in commenting so largely on the one, they would give him credit for the great additional illustration which he has thrown upon the other.

Yet as to the Poem itself, I am not without my hopes, that in this new edition I have rendered it somewhat more worthy of the pains which its Commentator has bestowed upon it, and of that approbation which it has already obtained from a very respectable part of the public ; having revised it very carefully throughout, and purged it, to the best of my abilities, of many defects in the prior editions. That original sin, however, which the admirers of rhyme, and of rhyme only, have laid to its charge, I have still ventured to retain : to this fault I must still own myself so blind, that in defence of it I shall again reprint what I said before in my former Postscript, and make it the conclusion of my present Preface.

“ When I first had the subject in contemplation, I found it admitted of two very different modes of compo-

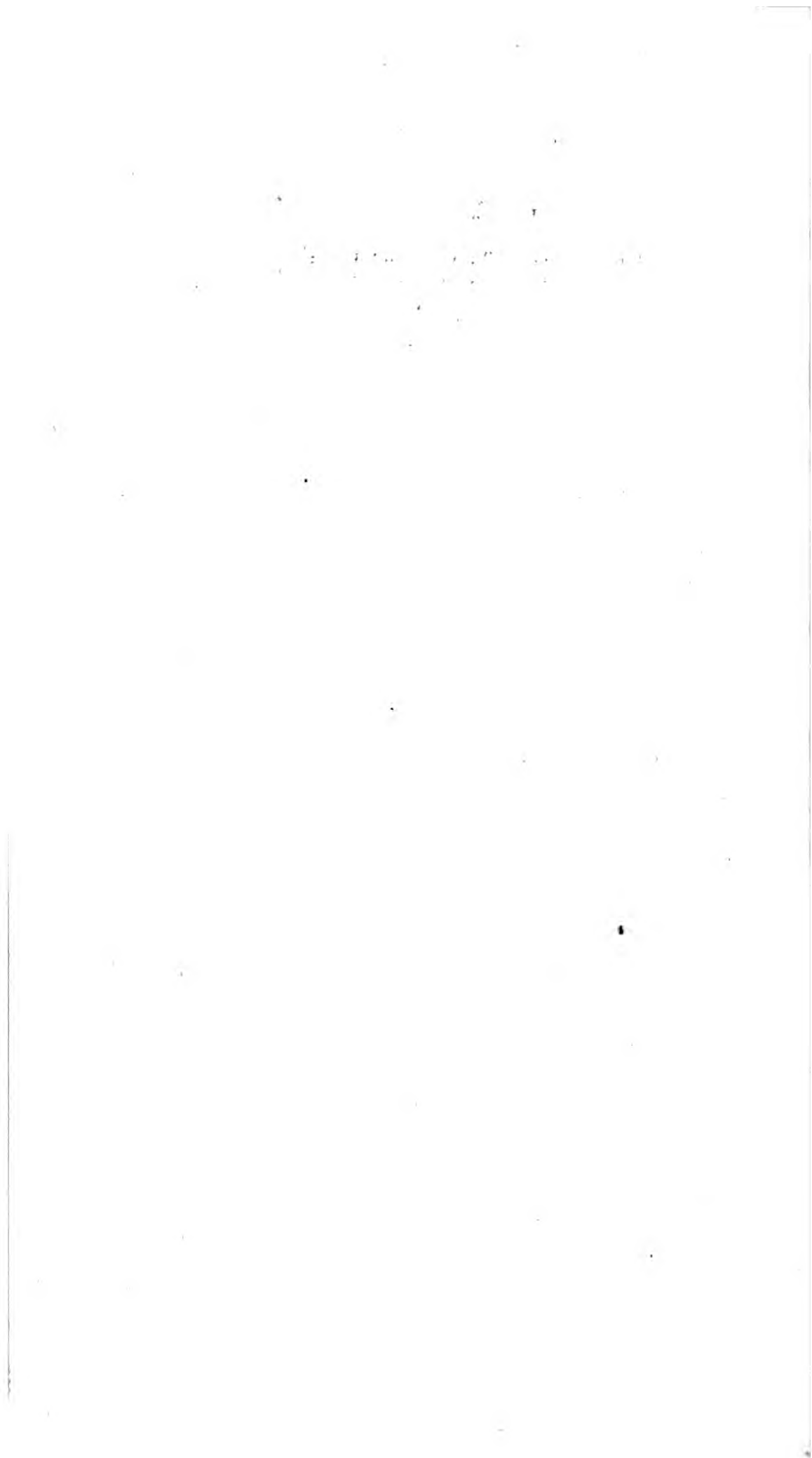
sition : one was that of the regular Didactic Poem, of which the Georgics of Virgil afford so perfect an example ; the other that of the preceptive epistolary essay, the model of which Horace has given in his Epistles *ad Augustum* and *ad Pisones*. I balanced some time which of these I should adopt, for both had their peculiar merit. The former opened a more ample field for picturesque description and poetical embellishment ; the latter was more calculated to convey exact precept in concise phrase.\* The one furnished better means of illustrating my subject, and the other of defining it ; the former admitted those ornaments only which resulted from lively imagery and figurative diction ; the latter seemed rather to require the seasoning of wit and satire ; this, therefore, appeared best calculated to expose false taste, and

\* See Mr. Pope's account of his *design* in writing the Essay on Man, where the peculiar merit of that way, in which he so greatly excelled, is most happily explained. He chose, as he says, " Verse, and even rhyme, for two reasons: verse, because precepts, so written, strike more strongly, and are retained more easily: rhyme, because it expresses arguments or instructions more concisely than even Prose itself." As I have lately, in the Preface to my translation of Fresnoy's Art of Painting, made use of this very reason for translating that Poem into Rhyme, some superficial readers may think that I hereby contradict myself; but the judicious critic will refer Fresnoy's Poem to *Horace's Art of Poetry* as to its proper archetype, and rightly deem it, though not an *epistolary*, yet a *preceptive Essay*. Whereas the present work comes under that species of composition which has the *Georgics of Virgil* for its original, than which no two modes of writing can be more dissimilar.



that to elucidate the true. But false taste, on this subject had been so inimitably ridiculed by Mr. Pope in his Epistle to Lord Burlington, that it seemed to preclude all other authors (at least it precluded me) from touching it after him; and therefore, as he had left much unsaid on that part of the art on which it was my purpose principally to enlarge, I thought the didactic method not only more open, but more proper for my attempt. This matter once determined, I did not hesitate as to my choice between blank verse and rhyme; because it clearly appeared, that numbers of the most varied kind were most proper to illustrate a subject *whose every charm springs from variety*, and which, painting nature as *scorning control*, should employ a versification for that end as unfettered as nature itself. Art at the same time, in rural improvements, pervading the province of nature, unseen, and unfelt, seemed to bear a striking analogy to that species of verse, the harmony of which results from measured quantity and varied cadence, without the too studied arrangement of final syllables, or regular return of consonant sounds. I was, notwithstanding, well aware, that by choosing to write in blank verse, I should not court popularity, because I perceived it was growing much out of vogue; but this reason, as may be supposed, did not weigh much with a writer, who meant to combat fashion in the very theme he intended to write upon; and who was also convinced that a mode of English versification, in which so many good

poems, with *Paradise Lost* at their head, have been written, could either not long continue unfashionable; or if it did, that fashion had so completely destroyed taste, it would not be worth any writer's while, who aimed at more than the reputation of the day, to endeavour to amuse the public."



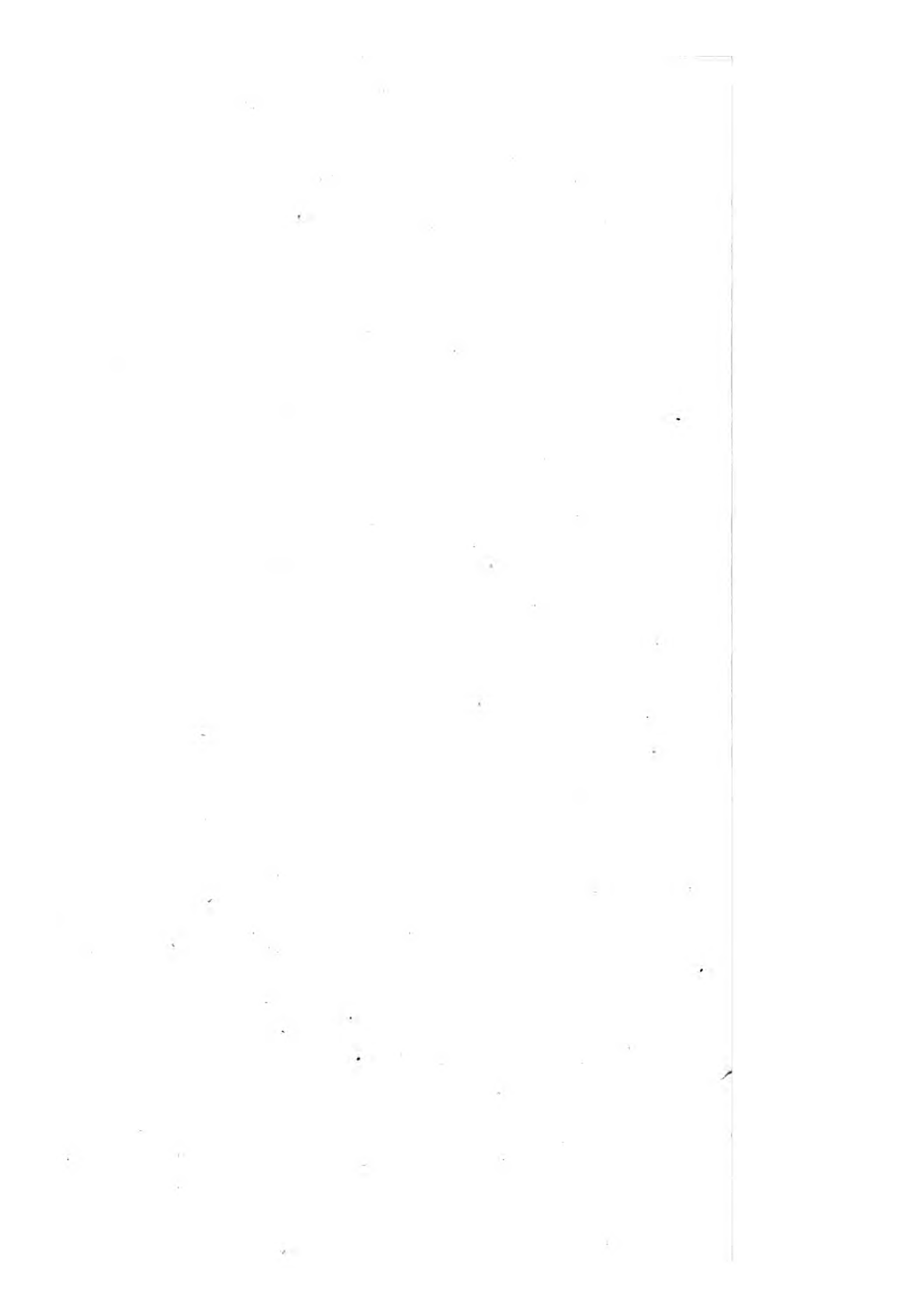
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THE  
ENGLISH GARDEN.  
BOOK THE FIRST.

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VOL. I.

P



THE  
ENGLISH GARDEN.

BOOK THE FIRST.

**T**O thee, divine SIMPLICITY ! to thee,  
 Best arbitress of what is good and fair,  
 This verse belongs. O, as it freely flows,  
 Give it thy powers of pleasing : else in vain  
 It strives to teach the rules, from Nature drawn,           5  
 Of import high to those whose taste would add  
 To Nature's careless graces ; loveliest then,  
 When, o'er her form, thy easy skill has taught  
 The robe of Spring in ampler folds to flow.  
 Haste, Goddess ! to the woods, the lawns, the vales ; 10  
 That lie in rude luxuriance, and but wait  
 Thy call to bloom with beauty. I meanwhile,  
 Attendant on thy state serene, will mark  
 Its faery progress ; wake th' accordant string ;  
 And tell how far, beyond the transient glare           15  
 Of fickle fashion, or of formal art,  
 Thy flowery works with charm perennial please.

Ye too, ye sister Powers ! that, at my birth,  
 Auspicious smil'd ; and o'er my cradle dropp'd

Those magic seeds of fancy, which produce 20  
 A Poet's feeling, and a Painter's eye,  
 Come to your votary's aid. For well ye know  
 How soon my infant accents lisp'd the rhyme,  
 How soon my hands the mimic colours spread,  
 And vainly strove to snatch a double wreath 25  
 From Fame's unfading laurel : fruitless aim ;  
 Yet not inglorious ; nor perchance devoid  
 Of friendly use to this fair argument ;  
 If so, with lenient smiles, ye deign to cheer,  
 At this sad hour,\* my desolated soul. 30  
 For deem not ye that I resume the strain  
 To court the world's applause : my years mature  
 Have learn'd to slight the toy. No, 'tis to sooth  
 That agony of heart, which they alone,  
 Who best have lov'd, who best have been belov'd, 35  
 Can feel, or pity ; sympathy severe !  
 Which she too felt, when on her pallid lip  
 The last farewell hung trembling, and bespoke  
 A wish to linger here, and bless the arms  
 She left for heav'n. She died, and heav'n is hers ! 40  
 Be mine, the pensive solitary balm  
 That recollection yields. Yes, Angel pure !  
 While Memory holds a seat, thy image still  
 Shall reign, shall triumph there ; and when, as now,  
 Imagination forms a nymph divine 45  
 To lead the fluent strain, thy modest blush,  
 Thy mild demeanour, thy unpractis'd smile

\* Ver. 30, Note I.

Shall grace that Nymph, and sweet Simplicity  
Be dress'd (ah meek MARIA!) in thy charms.

Begin the Song! and ye of Albion's sons                    50  
Attend; ye freeborn, ye ingenuous few,  
Who heirs of competence, if not of wealth,  
Preserve that vestal purity of soul  
Whence genuine taste proceeds. To you, blest youths,  
I sing; whether in academic groves                    55  
Studious ye rove; or, fraught with learning's stores,  
Visit the Latian plain, fond to transplant  
Those arts which Greece did, with her liberty,  
Resign to Rome. Yet know, the art I sing  
Ev'n there ye shall not learn. Rome knew it not       60  
While Rome was free: Ah! hope not then to find  
In slavish superstitious Rome the fair  
Remains. Meanwhile, of old and classic aid  
Though fruitless be the search, your eyes entranc'd  
Shall catch those glowing scenes, that taught a CLAUDE  
To grace his canvass with Hesperian hues:               66  
And scenes like these, on Memory's tablet drawn,  
Bring back to Britain; there give local form  
To each idea; and, if Nature lend  
Materials fit of torrent, rock, and shade,               70  
Produce new TIVOLIS. But learn to rein,  
O youth! whose skill essays the arduous task,  
That skill within the limit she allows.  
Great Nature scorns control: she will not bear



One beauty foreign to the spot or soil 75  
 She gives thee to adorn : 'tis thine alone  
 To mend, not change her features. Does her hand  
 Stretch forth a level lawn ? Ah, hope not thou  
 To lift the mountain there. Do mountains frown  
 Around ? Ah, wish not there the level lawn. 80  
 Yet she permits thy art, discreetly us'd,  
 To smooth the rugged and to swell the plain.  
 But dare with caution ; else expect, bold man !  
 The injur'd Genius of the place to rise  
 In self-defence, and, like some giant fiend 85  
 That frowns in Gothic story, swift destroy,  
 By night, the puny labours of thy day.

What then must he attempt, whom niggard Fate  
 Has fixt in such an inauspicious spot  
 As bears no trace of beauty ? Must he sit 90  
 Dull and inactive in the desert waste,  
 If Nature there no happy feature wears  
 To wake and meet his skill ? Believe the Muse,  
 She does not know that inauspicious spot  
 Where Beauty is thus niggard of her store : 95  
 Believe the Muse, through this terrestrial vast  
 The seeds of grace are sown, profusely sown,  
 Ev'n where we least may hope : the desert hills  
 Will hear the call of Art ; the vallies dank  
 Obey her just behests, and smile with charms 100  
 Congenial to the soil, and all its own.

For tell me, where's the desert? There alone  
 Where man resides not; or, if chance resides,  
 He is not there the man his Maker form'd,  
 Industrious man, by heav'ns first law ordain'd 105  
 To earn his food by labour. In the waste  
 Place thou that man with his primæval arms,  
 His plough-share, and his spade; nor shalt thou long  
 Impatient wait a change; the waste shall smile  
 With yellow harvests; what was barren heath 110  
 Shall soon be verdant mead. Now let thy art  
 Exert its powers, and give, by varying lines,  
 The soil, already tam'd, its finish'd grace.

Nor less obsequious to the hand of toil,  
 If Fancy guide that hand, will the dank-vale 115  
 Receive improvement meet; but Fancy here  
 Must lead, not follow Labour; she must tell  
 In what peculiar place the soil shall rise,  
 Where sink; prescribe what form each sluice shall wear,  
 And how direct its course; whether to spread 120  
 Broad as a lake, or, as a river pent  
 By fringed banks, weave its irriguous way  
 Through lawn and shade alternate: for if she  
 Preside not o'er the task, the narrow drains  
 Will run in tedious parallel, or cut 125  
 Each other in sharp angles; hence implore  
 Her swift assistance, ere the ruthless spade  
 Too deeply wound the bosom of the soil.

Yet, in this lowly site, where all that charms  
 Within itself must charm, hard is the task 130  
 Impos'd on Fancy. Hence with idle fear !  
 Is she not Fancy ? and can Fancy fail  
 In sweet delusions, in concealments apt,  
 And wild creative power ? She cannot fail.  
 And yet, full oft, when her creative power, 135  
 Her apt concealments, her delusions sweet  
 Have been profusely lavish'd ; when her groves  
 Have shot, with vegetative vigour strong,  
 Ev'n to their wish'd maturity ; when Jove  
 Has roll'd the changeful seasons o'er her lawns, 140  
 And each has left a blessing as it roll'd :  
 Ev'n then, perchance, some vain fastidious eye  
 Shall rove unmindful of surrounding charms  
 And ask for prospect. Stranger ! 'tis not here.  
 Go seek it on some garish turret's height ; 145  
 Seek it on Richmond's, or on Windsor's brow ;  
 There gazing, on the gorgeous vale below,  
 Applaud alike, with fashion'd pomp of phrase,  
 The good and bad, which, in profusion, there  
 That gorgeous vale exhibits. Here meanwhile 150  
 Ev'n in the dull, unseen, unseeing dell  
 Thy taste contemns, shall Contemplation imp  
 Her eagle plumes ; the Poet here shall hold  
 Sweet converse with his Muse ; the curious Sage,  
 Who comments on great Nature's ample tome, 155  
 Shall find that volume here. For here are caves,

Where rise those gurgling rills, that sing the song  
 Which Contemplation loves ; here shadowy glades,  
 Where through the tremulous foliage darts the ray,  
 That gilds the Poet's day-dream ; here the turf   160  
 Teems with the vegetating race ; the air  
 Is peopled with the insect tribes, that float  
 Upon the noontide beam, and call the Sage  
 To number and to name them. Nor if here  
 The Painter comes, shall his enchanting art   165  
 Go back without a boon : for Fancy here,  
 With Nature's living colours, forms a scene  
 Which RUISDALE best might rival : crystal lakes,  
 O'er which the giant oak, himself a grove,  
 Flings his romantic branches, and beholds   170  
 His reverend image in th' expanse below.  
 If distant hills be wanting, yet our eye  
 Forgets the want, and with delighted gaze  
 Rests on the lovely fore-ground ; there applauds  
 The art, which, varying forms and blending hues,   175  
 Gives that harmonious force of shade and light,  
 Which makes the landscape perfect. Art like this  
 Is only art, all else abortive toil.

Come then, thou sister Muse, from whom the mind  
 Wins for her airy visions colour, form,   180  
 And fixt locality, sweet Painting, come  
 To teach the docile pupil of my song,  
 How much his practice on thy aid depends.

Of Nature's various scenes the Painter culls  
 That for his fav'rite theme, where the fair whole 185  
 Is broken into ample parts, and bold ;  
 Where to the eye three well-mark'd distances  
 Spread their peculiar colouring. Vivid green,  
 Warm brown, and black opaque the fore-ground bears  
 Conspicuous ; sober olive coldly marks 190  
 The second distance ; thence the third declines  
 In softer blue, or, less'ning still, is lost  
 In faintest purple. When thy taste is call'd  
 To deck a scene where Nature's self presents  
 All these distinct gradations, then rejoice 195  
 As does the Painter, and like him apply  
 Thy colours ; plant thou on each separate part  
 Its proper foliage. Chief, for there thy skill  
 Has its chief scope, enrich with all the hues  
 That flowers, that shrubs, that trees can yield, the sides  
 Of that fair path, from whence our sight is led 201  
 Gradual to view the whole. Where'er thou wind'st  
 That path, take heed between the scene and eye,  
 To vary and to mix thy chosen greens.  
 Here for a while with cedar or with larch, 205  
 That from the ground spread their close texture, hide  
 The view entire. Then o'er some lowly tuft,  
 Where rose and woodbine bloom, permits its charms  
 To burst upon the sight ; now through a copse  
 Of beech, that rear their smooth and stately trunks, 210  
 Admit it partially, and half exclude,

And half reveal its graces : in this path  
 How long soe'er the wanderer roves, each step  
 Shall wake fresh beauties ; each short point present  
 A different picture, new, and yet the same. 215

Yet some there are who scorn this cautious rule,  
 And fell each tree that intercepts the scene.  
 O great **POUSSIN** ! O Nature's darling, **CLAUDE** !  
 What if some rash and sacrilegious hand  
 Tore from your canvass those umbrageous pines 220  
 That frown in front, and give each azure hill  
 The charm of contrast ! Nature suffers here  
 Like outrage, and bewails a beauty lost,  
 Which Time, with tardy hand, shall late restore.

Yet here the spoiler rests not ; see him rise 225  
 Warm from his devastation, to improve,  
 For so he calls it, yonder champian wide.  
 There on each bolder brow in shapes acute  
 His fence he scatters ; there the Scottish fir  
 In murky file lifts his inglorious head, 230  
 And blots the fair horizon. So should art  
 Improve thy pencil's savage dignity,  
**SALVATOR** ! if where, far as eye can pierce,  
 Rock pil'd on rock, thy Alpine heights retire,  
 She flung her random foliage, and disturb'd 235  
 The deep repose of the majestic scene.  
 This deed were impious. Ah, forgive the thought,

Thou more than Painter, more than Poet ! HE,  
Alone thy equal, who was “ Fancy’s child.”

Does then the Song forbid the Planter’s hand      240  
To clothe the distant hills, and veil with woods  
Their barren summits ? No ; it but forbids  
All poverty of clothing. Rich the robe,  
And ample let it flow, that Nature wears  
On her thron’d eminence : where’er she takes      245  
Her horizontal march, pursue her step  
With sweeping train of forest ; hill to hill  
Unite with prodigality of shade.  
There plant thy elm, thy chesnut ; nourish there  
Those sapling oaks, which, at Britannia’s call,      250  
May heave their trunks mature into the main,  
And float the bulwarks of her liberty :  
But if the fir, give it its station meet ;  
Place it an outgard to the assailing north  
To shield the infant scions, till possess      255  
Of native strength, they learn alike to scorn  
The blast and their protectors. Foster’d thus,  
The cradled hero gains from female care  
His future vigour ; but, that vigour felt,  
He springs indignant from his nurse’s arms,      260  
Nods his terrific helmet, shakes his spear,  
And is that awful thing which heav’n ordain’d  
The scourge of tyrants, and his country’s pride.

If yet thy art be dubious how to treat  
 Nature's neglected features, turn thy eye 265  
 To those, the masters of correct design,  
 Who, from her vast variety, have cull'd  
 The loveliest, boldest parts, and new arrang'd ;  
 Yet, as herself approv'd, herself inspir'd.  
 In their immortal works thou ne'er shalt find 270  
 Dull uniformity, contrivance quaint,  
 Or labour'd littleness ; but contrasts broad,  
 And careless lines, whose undulating forms  
 Play through the varied canvass : these transplant  
 Again on Nature ; take thy plastic spade, 275  
 It is thy pencil ; take thy seeds, thy plants,  
 They are thy colours ; and by these repay  
 With interest every charm she lent thy art.

Nor, while I thus to Imitation's realm  
 Direct thy step, deem I direct thee wrong ; 280  
 Nor ask, why I forget great Nature's fount,  
 And bring thee not the bright inspiring cup  
 From her original spring ? Yet, if thou ask'st,  
 Thyself shalt give the answer. Tell me why  
 Did RAPHAEL steal, when his creative hand 285  
 Imag'd the Seraphim, ideal grace  
 And dignity supernal from that store  
 Of Attic sculpture, which the ruthless Goth  
 Spar'd in his headlong fury ? Tell me this :  
 And then confess that beauty best is taught 290



By those, the favour'd few, whom heav'n has lent  
 The power to seize, select, and reunite  
 Her loveliest features ; and of these to form  
 One archetype complete of sovereign grace.  
 Here Nature sees her fairest forms more fair ;        295  
 Owns them for hers, yet owns herself excell'd  
 By what herself produc'd. Here Art and She  
 Embrace ; connubial Juno smiles benign,  
 And from the warm embrace Perfection springs.

Rouse then each latent energy of soul        300  
 To clasp ideal beauty. Proteus-like,  
 Think not the changeful Nymph will long elude  
 Thy chase, or with reluctant coyness frown.  
 Inspir'd by her thy happy art shall learn  
 To melt in fluent curves whate'er is straight,        305  
 Acute, or parallel. For, these unchang'd,  
 Nature and she disdain the formal scene.  
 'Tis their demand, that ev'ry step of rule  
 Be sever'd from their sight : they own no charm  
 But those that fair Variety creates,        310  
 Who ever loves to undulate and sport  
 In many a winding train. With equal zeal  
 She, careless Goddess, scorns the cube and cone,  
 As does mechanic Order hold them dear :  
 Hence springs their enmity ; and he that hopes        315  
 To reconcile the foes, as well might aim  
 With hawk and dove to draw the Cyprian car.

Such sentence past, where shall the Dryads fly  
 That haunt yon antient vista? Pity, sure,  
 Will spare the long cathedral isle of shade 320  
 In which they sojourn; Taste were sacrilege,  
 If, lifting there the axe, it dar'd invade  
 Those spreading oaks that in fraternal files  
 Have pair'd for centuries, and heard the strains  
 Of SIDNEY's, nay, perchance, of SURRY's reed. 325  
 Yet must they fall, unless mechanic skill,  
 To save her offspring, rouse at our command;  
 And, where we bid her move, with engine huge,  
 Each ponderous trunk, the ponderous trunk there move.  
 A work of difficulty and danger try'd, 330  
 Nor oft successful found. But if it fails,  
 Thy axe must do its office. Cruel task,  
 Yet needful. Trust me, though I bid thee strike,  
 Reluctantly I bid thee: for my soul  
 Holds dear an antient oak, nothing more dear; 335  
 It is an antient friend. Stay then thine hand;  
 And try by saplings tall, discreetly plac'd  
 Before, between, behind, in scatter'd groups,  
 To break th' obdurate line. So may'st thou save  
 A chosen few; and yet, alas, but few 340  
 Of these, the old protectors of the plain.  
 Yet shall these few give to thy opening lawn  
 That shadowy pomp, which only they can give:  
 For parted now, in patriarchal pride,  
 Each tree becomes the father of a tribe; 345

And, o'er the stripling foliage, rising round,  
Towers with parental dignity supreme.

And yet, my Albion ! in that fair domain,  
Which Ocean made thy dowry, when his love  
Tempestuous tore thee from reluctant Gaul, 350  
And bade thee be his Queeu, there still remains  
Full many a lovely unfrequented wild,  
Where change like this is needless ; where no lines  
Of hedge-row, avenue, or of platform square  
Demand destruction. In thy fair domain, 355  
Yes, my lov'd Albion ! many a glade is found,  
The haunt of wood-gods only ; where if Art  
E'er dar'd to tread, 'twas with unsandal'd foot,  
Printless, as if the place were holy ground,  
And there are scenes, where, tho' she whilom trod, 360  
Led by the worst of guides, fell Tyranny,  
And ruthless Superstition, we now trace  
Her footsteps with delight ; and pleas'd revere  
What once had rous'd our hatred. But to Time,  
Not her, the praise is due : his gradual touch 365  
Has moulder'd into beauty many a tower,  
Which, when it frown'd with all its battlements,  
Was only terrible ; and many a fane  
Monastic, which, when deck'd with all its spires,  
Serv'd but to feed some pamper'd Abbot's pride, 370  
And awe th' unletter'd vulgar. Generous youth,  
Whoe'er thou art, that listen'st to my lay,

And feel'st thy soul assent to what I sing,  
 Happy art thou if thou can'st call thine own  
 Such scenes as these : where Nature and where Time 375  
 Have work'd congenial ; where a scatter'd host  
 Of antique oaks darken thy sidelong hills ;  
 While, rushing through their branches, rifted cliffs  
 Dart their white heads, and glitter through the gloom.  
 More happy still, if one superior rock 380  
 Bear on its brow the shiver'd fragment huge  
 Of some old Norman fortress ; happier far,  
 Ah, then most happy, if thy vale below  
 Wash, with the crystal coolness of its rills,  
 Some mould'ring abbey's ivy-vested wall. 385

O how unlike the scene my fancy forms,  
 Did Folly, heretofore, with Wealth conspire  
 To plan that formal, dull, disjointed scene,  
 Which once was call'd a Garden. Britain still  
 Bears on her breast full many a hideous wound 390  
 Given by the cruel pair, when, borrowing aid  
 From geometric skill, they vainly strove  
 By line, by plummet, and unfeeling sheers,  
 To form with verdure what the builder form'd  
 With stone.\* Egregious madness ; yet pursu'd 395  
 With pains unwearied, with expence unsumm'd,  
 And science doating. Hence the sidelong walls  
 Of shaven yew ; the holly's prickly arms

\* Ver. 395, Note II.

Trimm'd into high arcades; the tonsile box  
 Wove, in mosaic mode of many a curl, 400  
 Around the figur'd carpet of the lawn.  
 Hence too deformities of harder cure:  
 The terras mound uplifted; the long line  
 Deep delv'd of flat canal; and all that toil,  
 Misled by tasteless Fashion, could atchieve 405  
 To mar fair Nature's lineaments divine.

Long was the night of error, nor dispell'd  
 By him that rose at learning's earliest dawn,  
 Prophet of unborn Science. On thy realm,  
 Philosophy! his sovereign lustre spread; 410  
 Yet did he deign to light with casual glance  
 The wilds of taste. Yes, sagest VERULAM,\*  
 'Twas thine to banish from the royal groves  
 Each childish vanity of crisped knot  
 And sculptur'd foliage; to the lawn restore 415  
 Its ample space, and bid it feast the sight  
 With verdure pure, unbroken, unabridg'd:  
 For verdure sooths the eye, as roseate sweets  
 The smell, or music's melting strains the ear.

So taught the Sage, taught a degenerate reign 420  
 What in Eliza's golden day was taste.  
 Not but the mode of that romantic age,  
 The age of tourneys, triumphs, and quaint masques,

\* Ver. 412, Note III.

Glar'd with fantastic pageantry, which dimm'd  
 The sober eye of truth, and dazzled ev'n 425  
 The Sage himself; witness his high-arch'd hedge,  
 In pillar'd state by carpentry upborn,  
 With colour'd mirrors deck'd, and prison'd birds.  
 But when our step has pac'd his proud parterres,  
 And reach'd the heath, then Nature glads our eye 430  
 Sporting in all her lovely carelessness.  
 There smiles in varied tufts the velvet rose,  
 There flaunts the gadding woodbine, swells the ground  
 In gentle hillocks, and around its sides  
 Thro' blossom'd shades the secret pathway steals. 435

Thus, with a Poet's power, the Sage's pen  
 Pourtray'd that nicer negligence of scene,  
 Which Taste approves. While he, delicious swain,  
 Who tun'd his oaten pipe by Mulla's stream,  
 Accordant touch'd the stops in Dorian mood : 440  
 What time he 'gan to paint the fairy vale,  
 Where stands the fane of Venus. Well I ween  
 That then, if ever, COLIN, thy fond hand  
 Did steep its pencil in the well-fount clear  
 Of true simplicity; and " call'd in Art 445  
 " Only to second Nature, and supply  
 " All that the Nymph forgot, or left forlorn." \*  
 Yet what avail'd the song? or what avail'd  
 Ev'n thine, thou chief of Bards, whose mighty mind,

\* Ver. 447, Note IV.

With inward light irradiate, mirror-like 450  
 Receiv'd, and to mankind with ray reflex  
 The sov'reign Planter's primal work display'd?  
 \*That work, where not nice Art in curious knots,  
 " But Nature boon pour'd forth on hill and dale  
 " Flowers worthy of Paradise ; while all around 455  
 " Umbrageous grotts, and caves of cool recess,  
 " And murmuring waters down the slope dispers'd,  
 " Or held, by fringed banks, in crystal lakes,  
 " Compose a rural seat of various view."  
 'Twas thus great Nature's herald blazon'd high 460  
 That fair original impress, which she bore  
 In state sublime ; e'er miscreated Art,  
 Offspring of Sin and Shame, the banner seiz'd,  
 And with adulterate pageantry defil'd.  
 Yet vainly, MILTON, did thy voice proclaim 465  
 These her primæval honours. Still she lay  
 Defac'd, deflower'd, full many a ruthless year :  
 Alike, when Charles, the abject tool of France,  
 Came back to smile his subjects into slaves ;  
 Or Belgic William, with his warrior frown, 470  
 Coldly declar'd them free ; in fetters still  
 The Goddess pin'd, by both alike opprest.

Go to the proof ! Behold what TEMPLE call'd  
 A perfect Garden. There thou shalt not find  
 One blade of verdure, but with aching feet 475

\* Ver. 458, Note V.

From terras down to terras shalt descend,  
 Step following step, by tedious flight of stairs :  
 On leaden platforms now the noon-day sun  
 Shall scorch thee ; now the dank arcades of stone  
 Shall chill thy fervour ; happy, if at length 480  
 Thou reach the Orchard, where the sparing turf\*  
 Through equal lines, all centring in a point,  
 Yields thee a softer tread. And yet full oft  
 O'er TEMPLE's studious hour did Truth preside,  
 Sprinkling her lustre o'er his classic page : 485  
 There here his candour own in fashion's spite,  
 In spite of courtly dulness, hear it own  
 " There is a grace in wild variety  
 " Surpassing rule and order."† TEMPLE, yes,  
 There is a grace ; and let eternal wreaths 490  
 Adorn their brows who fixt its empire here.  
 The Muse shall hail the champions that herself  
 Led to the fair atchievement.‡ ADDISON,  
 Thou polish'd Sage, or shall I call thee Bard,  
 I see thee come : around thy temples play 495  
 The lambent flames of humour, bright'ning mild  
 Thy judgment into smiles ; gracious thou com'st  
 With Satire at thy side, who checks her frown,  
 But not her secret sting. With bolder rage  
 POPE next advances : his indignant arm 500  
 Waves the poetic brand o'er Timon's shades,

\* Ver. 481, Note VI. † Ver. 489, Note VII.

‡ Ver. 493, Note VIII.



And lights them to destruction ; the fierce blaze  
 Sweeps through each kindred vista ; groves to groves \*  
 Nod their fraternal farewell, and expire.  
 And now, elate with fair-earn'd victory, 505  
 The Bard retires, and on the bank of Thames  
 Erects his flag of triumph ; wild it waves  
 In verdant splendor, and beholds, and hails  
 The King of Rivers, as he rolls along.  
 KENT is his bold associate ; KENT, who felt 510  
 The pencil's power : † but, fir'd by higher forms  
 Of beauty, than that pencil knew to paint,  
 Work'd with the living hues that Nature lent,  
 And realiz'd his landscapes. Generous He,  
 Who gave to Painting, what the wayward Nymph 515  
 Refus'd her votary, those Elysian scenes,  
 Which would she emulate, her nicest hand  
 Must all its force of light and shade employ.  
 On thee too, SOUTHCOTE, shall the Muse bestow  
 No vulgar praise : for thou to humblest things 520  
 Could'st give ennobling beauties ; deck'd by thee,  
 'The simple farm eclips'd the garden's pride, ‡  
 Ev'n as the virgin blush of innocence,  
 The harlotry of art. Nor, SHENSTONE, thou  
 Shalt pass without thy meed, thou son of peace ! 525  
 Who knew'st, perchance, to harmonize thy shades  
 Still softer than thy song ; yet was that song

\* Ver. 503, Note IX.

† Ver. 511, Note X.

‡ Ver. 522, Note XI.

Nor rude, nor inharmonious, when attun'd  
 To pastoral plaint, or tale of slighted love.  
 HIM too, the living leader of thy powers,                   530  
 Great Nature! him the Muse shall hail in notes  
 Which antedate the praise true genius claims  
 From just posterity: Bards yet unborn  
 Shall pay to BROWN that tribute, fitliest paid  
 In strains, the beauty of his scenes inspire.                   535

Meanwhile, ye youths! whose sympathetic souls  
 Would taste those genuine charms, which faintly smile  
 In my descriptive song, O visit oft  
 The finish'd scenes, that boast the forming hand  
 Of these creative Genii! feel ye there                   540  
 What REYNOLDS felt, when first the Vatican  
 Unbarr'd her gates, and to his raptur'd eye  
 Gave all the god-like energy that flow'd  
 From MICHAEL's pencil; feel what GARRICK felt,  
 When first he breath'd the soul of Shakspeare's page.  
 So shall your Art, if call'd to grace a scene                   546  
 Yet unadorn'd, with taste instinctive give  
 Each grace appropriate; so your active eye  
 Shall dart that glance prophetic, which awakes  
 The slumbering wood-nymphs; gladly shall they rise,  
 Oread and Dryad, from their verdurous beds,                   551  
 And fling their foliage, and arrange their stems,  
 As you, and beauty bid: the Naiad train,  
 Alike obsequious, from a thousand urns

Shall pour their crystalline tide ; while hand in hand,  
Vertumnus and Pomona bring their stores,           556  
Fruitage, and flowers of ev'ry blush and scent,  
Each varied season yields ; to you they bring  
The fragrant tribute ; ye, with generous hand  
Diffuse the blessing wide, till Albion smile           560  
One ample theatre of sylvan grace.

**END OF THE FIRST BOOK.**

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**THE**  
**ENGLISH GARDEN.**  
**BOOK THE SECOND.**

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THE  
ENGLISH GARDEN.

BOOK THE SECOND.

**H**AIL to the Art, that teaches Wealth and Pride  
 How to possess their wish, the world's applause,  
 Unmixt with blame ! that bids Magnificence  
 Abate its meteor glare, and learn to shine  
 Benevolently mild ; like her, the Queen 5  
 Of Night, who sailing through autumnal skies,  
 Gives to the bearded product of the plain  
 Her ripening lustre, lingering as she rolls,  
 And glancing cool the salutary ray  
 Which fills the fields with plenty.\* Hail, that Art 10  
 Ye swains ! for, hark ! with lowings glad, your herds  
 Proclaim its influence, wandering o'er the lawns  
 Restor'd to them and Nature ; now no more  
 Shall Fortune's minion rob them of their right,  
 Or round his dull domain with lofty wall 15  
 Oppose their jocund presence. Gothic Pomp  
 Frowns and retires, his proud behests are scorn'd :  
 Now Taste, inspir'd by Truth, exalts her voice,  
 And she is heard. " Oh, let not man misdeem ;

\* Ver. 10, Note XII.

" Waste is not Grandeur, Fashion ill supplies           20  
 " My sacred place, and Beauty scorns to dwell  
 " Where Use is exiled." At the awful sound  
 The terrace sinks spontaneous; on the green,  
 Broider'd with crisped knots, the tonsile yews  
 Wither and fall; the fountain dares no more           25  
 To fling its wasted crystal through the sky,  
 But pours salubrious o'er the parched lawn  
 Rills of fertility. Oh best of Arts  
 That works this happy change! true alchymy,  
 Beyond the Rosicrusian boast, that turns           30  
 Deformity to grace, expense to gain,  
 And pleas'd restores to Earth's maternal lap  
 The long-lost fruits of AMALTHEA's horn!

When such the theme, the Poet smiles secure  
 Of candid audience, and with touch assur'd           35  
 Resumes his reed ASCRÆAN; eager he  
 To ply its warbling stops of various note  
 In Nature's cause, that Albion's listening youths,  
 Inform'd erewhile to scorn the long-drawn lines  
 Of straight formality, alike may scorn           40  
 Those quick, acute, perplex'd, and tangled paths,  
 That, like the snake crush'd by the sharpen'd spade,  
 Writhe in convulsive torture, and full oft,  
 Through many a dark and unsunn'd labyrinth,  
 Mislead our step; till giddy, spent, and foiled,           45  
 We reach the point where first our race began.

These Fancy priz'd erroneous, what time Taste,  
 An infant yet, first join'd her to destroy  
 The measur'd platform ; into false extremes  
 What marvel if they stray'd, as yet unskill'd 50  
 To mark the form of that peculiar curve,  
 Alike averse to crooked and to straight,  
 Where sweet Simplicity resides ; which Grace  
 And Beauty call their own ; whose lambent flow  
 Charms us at once with symmetry and ease. 55  
 'Tis Nature's curve, instinctively she bids  
 Her tribes of Being trace it. Down the slope  
 Of yon wide field, see, with its gradual sweep  
 The ploughing steers their fallow ridges swell ;  
 The peasant, driving through each shadowy lane 60  
 His team, that bends beneath th' incumbent weight  
 Of laughing CERES, marks it with his wheel ;  
 At night, and morn, the milkmaid's careless step  
 Has, through yon pasture green, from stile to stile,  
 Imprest a kindred curve ; the scudding hare 65  
 Draws to her drew-sprent seat, o'er thymy heaths,  
 A path as gently waving : mark them well ;  
 Compare, pronounce, that, varying but in size,  
 Their forms are kindred all ; go then, convinc'd  
 That Art's unerring rule is only drawn 70  
 From Nature's sacred source ; a rule that guides  
 Her ev'ry toil ; or, if she shape the path,  
 Or scoop the lawn, or gradual, lift the hill.  
 For not alone to that embellish'd walk,



Which leads to ev'ry beauty of the scene, 75  
 It yields a grace, but spreads its influence wide,  
 Prescribes each form of thicket, copse, or wood,  
 Confines the rivulet, and spreads the lake.

Yet shall this graceful line forget to please,  
 If border'd close by sidelong parallels, 80  
 Nor duly mixt with those opposing curves  
 That give the charm of contrast. Vainly Taste  
 Draws through the grove her path in easiest bend,  
 If, on the margin of its woody sides,  
 The measur'd greensward waves in kindred flow : 85  
 Oft let the turf recede, and oft approach,  
 With varied breadth, now sink into the shade,  
 Now to the sun its verdant bosom bare.  
 As vainly wilt thou lift the gradual hill  
 To meet thy right-hand view, if to the left 90  
 An equal hill ascends : in this, and all  
 Be various, wild, and free as Nature's self.

For in her wildness is there oft an art,  
 Or seeming art, which, by position apt,  
 Arranges shapes unequal, so to save 95  
 That correspondent poise, which unpreserv'd  
 Would mock our gaze with airy vacancy.  
 Yet fair variety, with all her powers,  
 Assists the balance : 'gainst the barren crag  
 She lifts the pastur'd slope ; to distant hills 100

Opposes neighb'ring shades ; and, central oft,  
 Relieves the flatness of the lawn, or lake,  
 With studded tuft, or island. So to poise  
 Her objects, mimic Art may oft attain :  
 She rules the foreground ; she can swell or sink 105  
 Its surface ; here her leafy screen oppose,  
 And there withdraw ; here part the varying greens,  
 And there in one promiscuous gloom combine  
 As best befits the Genius of the scene.

Him then, that sov'reign Genius, Monarch sole 110  
 Who, from creation's primal day, derives  
 His right divine to this his rural throne,  
 Approach with meet obeisance ; at his feet  
 Let our aw'd art fall prostrate. They of Ind,  
 The Tartar tyrants, Tamerlane's proud race, 115  
 Or they in Persia thron'd, who shake the rod  
 Of power o'er myriads of enervate slaves,  
 Expect not humbler homage to their pride  
 Than does this sylvan Despot.\* Yet to those  
 Who do him loyal service, who revere 120  
 His dignity, nor aim, with rebel arms,  
 At lawless usurpation, is he found  
 Patient and placable, receives well pleas'd  
 Their tributary treasures, nor disdains  
 To blend them with his own internal store. 125

\* Ver. 119, Note XIII.

Stands he in blank and desolated state,  
 Where yawning crags disjointed, sharp, uncouth,  
 Involve him with pale horror? In the clefts  
 Thy welcome spade shall heap that fost'ring mould  
 Whence sapling oaks may spring; whence clust'ring crowds  
 Of early underwood shall veil their sides, 131  
 And teach their rugged heads above the shade  
 To tower in shapes romantic: nor, around  
 Their flinty roots, shall ivy spare to hang  
 Its gadding tendrils, nor the moss-grown turf, 135  
 With wild thyme sprinkled, there refuse to spread  
 Its verdure. Awful still, yet not austere,  
 The Genius stands; bold is his port, and wild,  
 But not forlorn, nor savage. On some plain  
 Of tedious length, say, are his flat limbs laid? 140  
 Thy hand shall lift him from the dreary couch,  
 Pillowing his head with swelling hillocks green,  
 While, all around, a forest-curtain spreads  
 Its waving folds, and blesses his repose.  
 What, if perchance in some prolific soil, 145  
 Where Vegetation strenuous, uncontrol'd,  
 Has push'd her pow'rs luxuriant, he now pines  
 For air and freedom? Soon thy sturdy axe,  
 Amid its interwisted foliage driv'n,  
 Shall open all his glades, and ingress give 150  
 To the bright darts of day; his prison'd rills,  
 That darkling crept amid the rustling brakes,  
 Shall glitter as they glide, and his dank caves,

Free to salubrious Zephyrs, cease to weep.  
 Meanwhile his shadowy pomp he still retains, 155  
 His Dryads still attend him ; they alone  
 Of race plebeian banish'd, who to crowd,  
 Not grace his state, their boughs obtrusive flung.

But chief consult him ere thou dar'st decide  
 Th' appropriate bounds of Pleasure, and of Use ; 160  
 For Pleasure, lawless robber, oft invades  
 Her neighbour's right, and turns to idle waste  
 Her treasures : curb her then in scanty bounds,  
 Whene'er the scene permits that just restraint.

The curb restrains not Beauty ; sov'reign she 165  
 Still triumphs, still unites each subject realm,  
 And blesses both impartial. Why then fear  
 Lest, if thy fence contract the shaven lawn,  
 It does Her wrong ? She points a thousand ways,  
 And each her own, to cure the needful ill. 170

Where'er it winds, and freely must it wind,  
 She bids, at ev'ry bend, thick-blossom'd tufts  
 Crowd their inwoven tendrils : is there still  
 A void ? Lo, Lebanon her cedar lends !

Lo, all the stately progeny of pines 175  
 Come, with their floating foliage richly deck'd,  
 To fill that void ! meanwhile across the mead  
 The wand'ring flocks that browse between the shades  
 Seem oft to pass their bounds ; the dubious eye  
 Decides not if they crop the mead or lawn. 180

Browse then your fill, fond foresters ! to you  
 Shall sturdy Labour quit his morning task  
 Well pleas'd ; nor longer o'er his useless plots  
 Draw through the dew the splendour of his scythe.  
 He, leaning on that scythe, with carols gay           185  
 Salutes his fleecy substitutes, that rush  
 In bleating chase to their delicious task,  
 And spreading o'er the plain, with eager teeth  
 Devour it into verdure. Browse your fill  
 Fond foresters ! the soil that you enrich           190  
 Shall still supply your morn and evening meal  
 With choicest delicates ; whether you choose  
 The vernal blades, that rise with seeded stem  
 Of hue purpureal ; or the clover white,  
 That in a spiked ball collects its sweets ;           195  
 Or trembling fescue : ev'ry fav'rite herb  
 Shall court your taste, ye harmless epicures !  
 Meanwhile permit that with unheeded step  
 I pass beside you, nor let idle fear  
 Spoil your repast, for know the lively scene,           200  
 That you still more enliven, to my soul  
 Darts inspiration, and impels the song  
 To roll in bolder descant ; while, within,  
 A gleam of happiness primæval seems  
 To snatch me back to joys my nature claim'd,           205  
 Ere vice defil'd, ere slavery sunk the world,  
 And all was faith and freedom : then was man  
 Creation's king, yet friend ; and all that browse,

Or skim, or dive, the plain, the air, the flood,  
 Paid him their liberal homage ; paid unaw'd 210  
 In love accepted, sympathetic love  
 That felt for all, and blest them with its smiles.  
 Then, nor the curling horn had learn'd to sound  
 The savage song of chase ; the barbed shaft  
 Had then no poison'd point ; nor thou, fell tube ! 215  
 Whose iron entrails hide the sulphurous blast,  
 Satanic engine, knew'st the ruthless power  
 Of thundering death around thee. Then alike  
 Were ye innocuous through your ev'ry tribe,  
 Or brute, or reptile ; nor by rage or guile 220  
 Had giv'n to injur'd man his only plea  
 (And that the tyrant's plea\*) to work your harm.  
 Instinct, alas ! like wayward Reason, now  
 Veers from its pole. There was a golden time  
 When each created being kept its sphere 225  
 Appointed, nor infring'd its neighbour's right.  
 The flocks, to whom the grassy lawn was giv'n,  
 Fed on its blades contented ; now they crush  
 Each scion's tender shoots, and, at its birth,  
 Destroy, what, sav'd from their remorseless tooth, 230  
 Had been the tree of Jove. Ev'n while I sing,  
 Yon wanton lamb has cropt the woodbine's pride,  
 That bent beneath a full-blown load of sweets,  
 And fill'd the air with perfume ; see it falls ;  
 The busy bees, with many a murmur sad, 235

\* Ver. 222, Note XIV.

Hang o'er their honied loss. Why is it thus?  
 Ah, why must Art defend the friendly shades  
 She rear'd to shield you from the noontide beam?  
 Traitors, forbear to wound them! say, ye fools!  
 Does your rich herbage fail? do acrid leaves 240  
 Afford you daintier food? I plead in vain;  
 For now the father of the fleecy troop  
 Begins his devastation, and his ewes  
 Crowd to the spoil, with imitative zeal.

Since then, constrain'd, we must expel the flock 245  
 From where our saplings rise, our flow'rets bloom,  
 The song shall teach, in clear preceptive notes,  
 How best to frame the fence, and best to hide  
 All its foreseen defects; defective still,  
 Though hid with happiest art. Ingrateful sure 250  
 When such the theme, becomes the Poet's task:  
 Yet must he try, by modulation meet  
 Of varied cadence, and selected phrase,  
 Exact yet free, without inflation bold,  
 To dignify that theme, must try to form 255  
 Such magic sympathy of sense with sound  
 As pictures all it sings; while Grace awakes  
 At each blest touch, and, on the lowliest things,  
 Scatters her rainbow hues. The first and best  
 Is that, which, sinking from our eye, divides 260  
 Yet seems not to divide the shaven lawn,  
 And parts it from the pasture; for if there

Sheep feed, or dappled deer, their wandering teeth  
 Will, smoothly as the scythe, the herbage shave,  
 And leave a kindred verdure. This to keep 265  
 Heed that thy labourer scoop the trench with care ;  
 For some there are who give their spade repose,  
 When broad enough the perpendicular sides  
 Divide, and deep descend. To form perchance  
 Some needful drain, such labour may suffice, 270  
 Yet not for beauty : here thy range of wall  
 Must lift its height erect, and, o'er its head  
 A verdant veil of swelling turf expand,  
 While smoothly from its base with gradual ease  
 The pasture meets its level, at that point 275  
 Which best deludes our eye, and best conceals  
 Thy lawn's brief limit. Down so smooth a slope  
 The fleecy foragers will gladly browse ;  
 The velvet herbage free from weeds obscene  
 Shall spread its equal carpet, and the trench 280  
 Be pasture to its base. Thus form thy fence  
 Of stone, for stone alone, and pil'd on high,  
 Best curbs the nimble deer, that love to range  
 Unlimited ; but where tame heifers feed,  
 Or innocent sheep, an humbler mound will serve 285  
 Unlin'd with stone, and but a greensward trench.  
 Here midway down, upon the nearer bank  
 Plant thy thick row of thorns, and, to defend  
 Their infant shoots, beneath, on oaken stakes,  
 Extend a rail of elm, securely arm'd 290



With spiculated paling, in such sort  
 As, round some citadel, the engineer  
 Directs his sharp stoccade. But when the shoots  
 Condense, and interweave their prickly boughs  
 Impenetrable, then withdraw their guard, 295  
 They've done their office ; scorn thou to retain,  
 What frowns like military art, in scenes,  
 Where peace should smile perpetual. These destroy'd,  
 Make it thy vernal care, when April calls  
 New shoots to birth, to trim the hedge aslant, 300  
 And mould it to the roundness of the mound,  
 Itself a shelving hill ; nor need we here  
 The rule or line precise, a casual glance  
 Suffices to direct the careless sheers.

Yet learn, that each variety of ground 305  
 Claims its peculiar barrier. When the foss  
 Can steal transverse before the central eye,  
 'Tis duly drawn ; but, up yon neighb'ring hill  
 That fronts the lawn direct, if labour delve  
 The yawning chasm, 'twill meet, not cross our view ;  
 No foliage can conceal, no curve correct 311  
 The deep deformity. And yet thou mean'st  
 Up yonder hill to wind thy fragrant way,  
 And wisely dost thou mean ; for its broad eye  
 Catches the sudden charms of laughing vales, 315  
 Rude rocks and headlong streams, and antique oaks  
 Lost in a wild horizon ; yet the path

That leads to all these charms expects defence :  
 Here then suspend the sportsman's hempen toils,  
 And stretch their meshes on the light support      320  
 Of hazel plants, or draw thy lines of wire  
 In fivefold parallel ; no danger then  
 That sheep invade thy foliage. To thy herds,  
 And pastur'd steeds an opener fence oppose,  
 Form'd by a triple row of cordage strong,      325  
 Tight drawn the stakes between. The simple deer  
 Is curb'd by mimic snares ; the slenderest twine \*  
 (If sages err not) that the beldame spins  
 When by her wintry lamp she plies her wheel,  
 Arrests his courage ; his impetuous hoof,      330  
 Broad chest, and branching antlers nought avail ;  
 In fearful gaze he stands ; the nerves that bore  
 His bounding pride o'er lofty mounds of stone,  
 A single thread defies. Such force has fear,  
 When visionary fancy wakes the fiend,      335  
 In brute, or man, most powerful when most vain.

Still must the swain, who spreads these corded guards,  
 Expect their swift decay. The noontide beams  
 Relax, the nightly dews contract the twist.  
 Oft too the coward hare, then only bold      340  
 When mischief prompts, or wintry famine pines,  
 Will quit her rush-grown form, and steal, with ear  
 Up-prick'd, to gnaw the toils ; and oft the ram  
 And jutting steer drive their entangling horns

\* Verse 327, Note XV.

Through the frail meshes, and, by many a chasm, 345  
 Proclaim their hate of thraldom. Nothing brooks  
 Confinement, save degenerate man alone,  
 Who deems a monarch's smile can gild his chains.  
 Tir'd then, perchance, of nets that daily claim  
 Thy renovating labour, thou wilt form, 350  
 With elm and oak, a rustic balustrade  
 Of firmest juncture : happy could thy toil  
 Make it as fair as firm ; yet vain the wish,  
 Aim but to hide, not grace its formal line.

Let those, who weekly, from the city's smoke, 355  
 Crowd to each neighb'ring hamlet, there to hold  
 Their dusty Sabbath, tip with gold and red  
 The milk-white palisades, that Gothic now,  
 And now Chinese, now neither, and yet both,  
 Checquer their trim domain. Thy sylvan scene 360  
 Would fade, indignant at the tawdry glare.

'Tis thine alone to seek what shadowy hues  
 Tinging thy fence may lose it in the lawn ;  
 And these to give thee Painting must descend  
 Ev'n to her meanest office ; grind, compound, 365  
 Compare, and by the distanced eye decide.

For this she first, with snowy ceruse, joins  
 The ochr'ous atoms that chalybeate rills  
 Wash from their mineral channels, as they glide,

In flakes of earthy gold ; with these unites 370

A tinge of blue, or that deep azure gray,

Form'd from the calcin'd fibres of the vine ;

And, if she blends, with sparing hand she blends

That base metallic drug then only priz'd,

When, aided by the humid touch of Time, 375

It gives a Nero's or some tyrant's cheek,

Its precious canker. These with fluent oil

Attemper'd, on thy length'ning rail shall spread

That sober olive-green which Nature wears

Ev'n on her vernal bosom ; nor misdeem, 380

For that, illumin'd with the noontide ray,

She boasts a brighter garment, therefore Art

A livelier verdure to thy aid should bring.

Know when that Art, with ev'ry varied hue,

Portrays the living landscape ; when her hand 385

Commands the canvass plane to glide with streams,

To wave with foliage, or with flowers to breathe,

Cool olive tints, in soft gradation laid,

Create the general herbage : there alone,

Where darts with vivid force, the ray supreme 390

Unsullied verdure reigns ; and tells our eye

It stole its bright reflection from the sun.

The paint is spread ; the barrier pales retire,

Snatch'd, as by magic, from the gazer's view.

So, when the sable ensign of the night, 395

Unfurld by mist-impelling Eurus, veils

The last red radiance of declining day,  
 Each scatter'd village, and each holy spire  
 That deck'd the distance of the sylvan scene,  
 Are sunk in sudden gloom : the plodding hind, 400  
 That homeward hies, kens not the cheering site  
 Of his calm cabin, which, a moment past,  
 Stream'd from its roof an azure curl of smoke,  
 Beneath the sheltering coppice, and gave sign  
 Of warm domestic welcome from his toil. 405

Nor is that cot, of which fond Fancy draws  
 This casual picture, alien from our theme.  
 Revisit it at morn ; its opening latch,  
 Though Penury and Toil within reside,  
 Shall pour thee forth a youthful progeny 410  
 Glowing with health and beauty (such the dower  
 Of equal heav'n) : See how the ruddy tribe  
 Throng round the threshold, and, with vacant gaze,  
 Salute thee ; call the loiterers into use,  
 And form of these thy fence, the living fence 415  
 That graces what it guards. Thou think'st, perchance,  
 That, skill'd in Nature's heraldry, thy art  
 Has, in the limits of yon fragrant tuft,  
 Marshall'd each rose, that to the eye of June  
 Spreads its peculiar crimson ; do not err, 420  
 The loveliest still is wanting ; the fresh rose  
 Of Innocence, it blossoms on their cheek,  
 And, lo, to thee they bear it ! striving all,

In panting race, who first shall reach the lawn,  
 Proud to be call'd thy shepherds. Want, alas! 425  
 Has o'er their little limbs her livery hung,  
 In many a tatter'd fold, yet still those limbs  
 Are shapely; their rude locks start from their brow,  
 Yet, on that open brow, its dearest throne,  
 Sits sweet Simplicity. Ah, clothe the troop 430  
 In such a russet garb as best befits  
 Their pastoral office; let the leathern scrip  
 Swing at their side, tip thou their crook with steel,  
 And braid their hat with rushes, then to each  
 Assign his station; at the close of eve, 435  
 Be it their care to pen in hurdled cote  
 The flock, and when the matin prime returns,  
 Their care to set them free; yet watching still  
 The liberty they lend, oft shalt thou hear  
 Their whistle shrill, and oft their faithful dog 440  
 Shall with obedient barkings fright the flock  
 From wrong or robbery. The livelong day  
 Meantime rolls lightly o'er their happy heads;  
 They bask on sunny hillocks, or desport  
 In rustic pastime, while that loveliest grace, 445  
 Which only lives in action unrestrain'd,  
 To ev'ry simple gesture lends a charm.

Pride of the year, purpureal Spring! attend,  
 And, in the cheek of these sweet innocents  
 Behold your beauties pictur'd. As the cloud 450

That weeps its moment from thy sapphire heav'n,  
 They frown with causeless sorrow ; as the beam,  
 Gilding that cloud, with causeless mirth they smile.  
 Stay, pitying Time ! prolong their vernal bliss.  
 Alas ! ere we can note it in our song, 455  
 Comes manhood's feverish summer, chill'd full soon  
 By cold autumnal care, till wint'ry age  
 Sinks in the frore severity of death.

Ah ! who, when such life's momentary dream,  
 Would mix in hireling senates, strenuous there 460  
 To crush the venal hydra, whose fell crests  
 Rise with recruited venom from the wound !  
 Who, for so vain a conflict, would forego  
 Thy sylvan haunts, celestial Solitude !  
 Where self-improvement, crown'd with self-content,  
 Await to bless thy votary ? Nurtur'd thus 466  
 In tranquil groves, list'ning to Nature's voice,  
 That preach'd from whispering trees, and babbling brooks,  
 A lesson seldom learnt in Reason's school,  
 The wise Sidonian liv'd :\* and, though the pest 470  
 Of lawless tyranny around him rag'd ;  
 Though Strato, great alone in Persia's gold,  
 Uncall'd, unhallow'd by the people's choice,  
 Usurp'd the throne of his brave ancestors,  
 Yet was his soul all peace ; a garden's care 475  
 His only thought, its charms his only pride.

\* Ver. 470, Note XVI.

But now the conquering arms of Macedon  
 Had humbled Persia. Now Phœnicia's realm  
 Receives the Son of Ammon; at whose frown  
 Her tributary kings or quit their thrones, 480  
 Or at his smile retain; and Sidon, now  
 Freed from her tyrant, points the victor's step  
 To where her rightful sov'reign, doubly dear  
 By birth and virtue, prun'd his garden grove.

'Twas at that early hour, when now the sun 485  
 Behind majestic Lebanon's dark veil  
 Hid his ascending splendor; yet through each  
 Her cedar-vested sides, his flaunting beams  
 Shot to the strand, and purpled all the main,  
 Where Commerce saw her Sidon's freighted wealth, 490  
 With languid streamers, and with folded sails,  
 Float in a lake of gold. The wind was hush'd;  
 And, to the beach, each slowly-lifted wave,  
 Creeping with silver curl, just kist the shore,  
 And slept in silence. At this tranquil hour 495  
 Did Sidon's senate, and the Grecian host,  
 Led by the conqueror of the world, approach  
 The secret glade that veil'd the man of toil.

Now near the mountain's foot the chief arriv'd,  
 Where, round that glade, a pointed aloe screen, 500  
 Entwin'd with myrtle, met in tangled brakes,  
 That barr'd all entrance, save at one low gate,



Whose time-disjointed arch, with ivy chain'd,  
 Bad stoop the warrior train. A pathway brown  
 Led through the pass, meeting a fretful brook, 505  
 And wandering near its channel, while it leapt  
 O'er many a rocky fragment, where rude Art  
 Had eas'd perchance, but not prescrib'd its way.

Close was the vale and shady ; yet ere long  
 Its forest sides retiring, left a lawn 510  
 Of ample circuit, where the widening stream  
 Now o'er its pebbled channel nimbly tript  
 In many a lucid maze. From the flower'd verge  
 Of this clear rill now stray'd the devious path,  
 Amid ambrosial tufts where spicy plants, 515  
 Weeping their perfum'd tears of myrrh, and nard,  
 Stood crown'd with Sharon's rose ; or where, apart,  
 The patriarch palm his load of sugar'd dates  
 Shower'd plenteous ; where the fig, of standard strength,  
 And rich pomegranate, wrapt in dulcet pulp 520  
 Their racy seeds ; or where the citron's bough  
 Bent with its load of golden fruit mature.  
 Meanwhile the lawn beneath the scatter'd shade  
 Spread its serene extent ; a stately file  
 Of circling cypress mark'd the distant bound. 525

Now, to the left, the path ascending pierc'd  
 A smaller sylvan theatre, yet deck'd  
 With more majestic foliage. Cedars here,

Coeval with the sky-crown'd mountain's self,  
 Spread wide their giant arms ; whence, from a rock 530  
 Craggy and black, that seem'd its fountain head,  
 The stream fell headlong ; yet still higher rose,  
 Ev'n in th' eternal snows of Lebanon,  
 That hallow'd spring ; thence, in the porous earth  
 Long while ingulph'd, its crystal weight here forc'd 535  
 Its way to light and freedom. Down it dash'd ;  
 A bed of native marble pure receiv'd  
 The new-born Naiad, and repos'd her wave,  
 Till with o'erflowing pride it skimm'd the lawn.

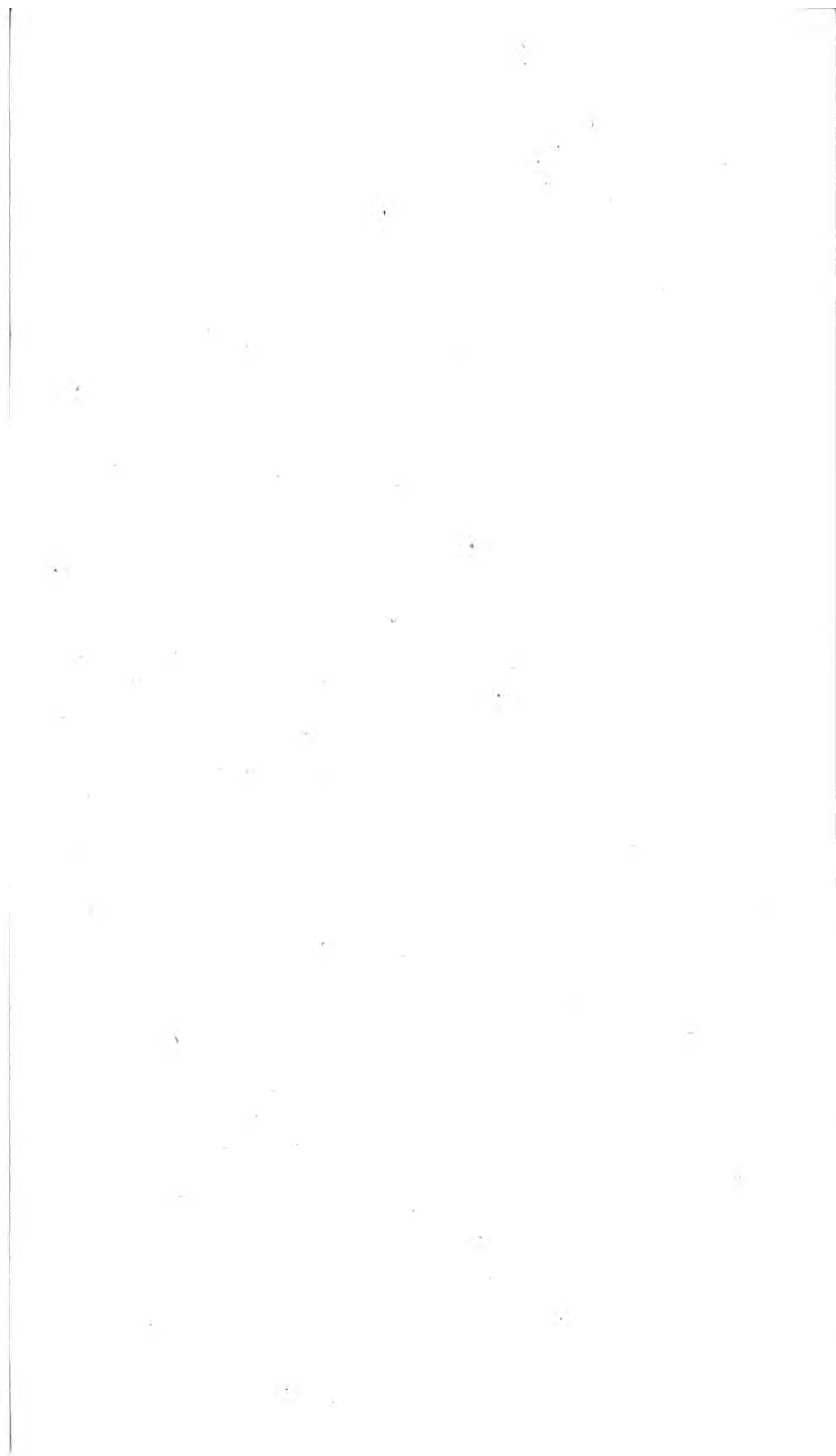
Fronting this lake there rose a solemn grot, 540  
 O'er which an ancient vine luxuriant flung  
 Its purple clusters, and beneath its roof  
 An unhewn altar. Rich Sabæan gums  
 That altar pil'd ; and there with torch of pine  
 The venerable Sage, now first descri'd, 545  
 The fragrance incense kindled. Age had shed  
 That dust of silver o'er his sable locks,  
 Which spoke his strength mature beyond its prime,  
 Yet vigorous still, for from his healthy cheek  
 Time had not cropt a rose, or on his brow 554  
 One wrinkling furrow plough'd ; his eagle eye  
 Had all its youthful lightning, and each limb  
 The sinewy strength that toil demands, and gives.

The warrior saw, and paus'd : his nod withheld

The crowd at awful distance, where their ears,           555  
 In mute attention, drank the Sage's prayer.  
 " Parent of Good (he cried) behold the gifts  
 " Thy humble votary brings, and may thy smile  
 " Hallow his custom'd offering. Let the hand  
 " That deals in blood, with blood thy shrines distain;  
 " Be mine this harmless tribute. If it speaks           561  
 " A grateful heart, can hecatombs do more?  
 " Parent of Good! they cannot. Purple Pomp  
 " May call thy presence to a prouder fane  
 " Than this poor cave; but will thy presence there 565  
 " Be more devoutly felt? Parent of Good!  
 " It will not. Here then, shall the prostrate heart,  
 " That deeply feels thy presence, lift its pray'r.  
 " But what has he to ask who nothing needs,  
 " Save what, unask'd, is from thy heav'n of heav'ns  
 " Giv'n in diurnal good? yet, holy Power!           571  
 " Do all that call thee Father thus exult  
 " In thy propitious presence? Sidon sinks  
 " Beneath a tyrant's scourge. Parent of Good!  
 " Oh free my captive country."—Sudden here           575  
 He paus'd and sigh'd. And now, the raptur'd crowd  
 Murmur applause: he heard, he turn'd, and saw  
 The King of Macedon with eager step  
 Burst from his warrior phalanx. From the youth,  
 Who bore its state, the conqueror's own right hand 580  
 Snatch'd the rich wreath, and bound it on his brow.  
 His swift attendants o'er his shoulders cast

The robe of empire, while the trumpet's voice  
 Proclaim'd him King of Sidon. Stern he stood,  
 Or, if he smil'd, 'twas a contemptuous smile, 585  
 That held the pageant honours in disdain.  
 Then burst the people's voice; in loud acclaim,  
 And bade him be their Father. At the word,  
 The honour'd blood, that warm'd him, flush'd his cheek;  
 His brow expanded; his exalted step 590  
 March'd firmer; graciously he bow'd the head,  
 And was the Sire they call'd him. "Tell me, King,"  
 Young Ammon cry'd, while o'er his bright'ning form  
 He cast the gaze of wonder, "how a soul  
 "Like thine could bear the toils of Penury?" 595  
 "Oh grant me, Gods!" he answer'd, "so to bear  
 "This load of Royalty. My toil was crown'd  
 "With blessings lost to kings; yet, righteous Powers!  
 "If to my country ye transfer the boon,  
 "I triumph in the loss. Be mine the chains 600  
 "That fether sov'reignty; let Sidon smile  
 "With, your best blessings, Liberty and Peace."

END OF THE SECOND BOOK.

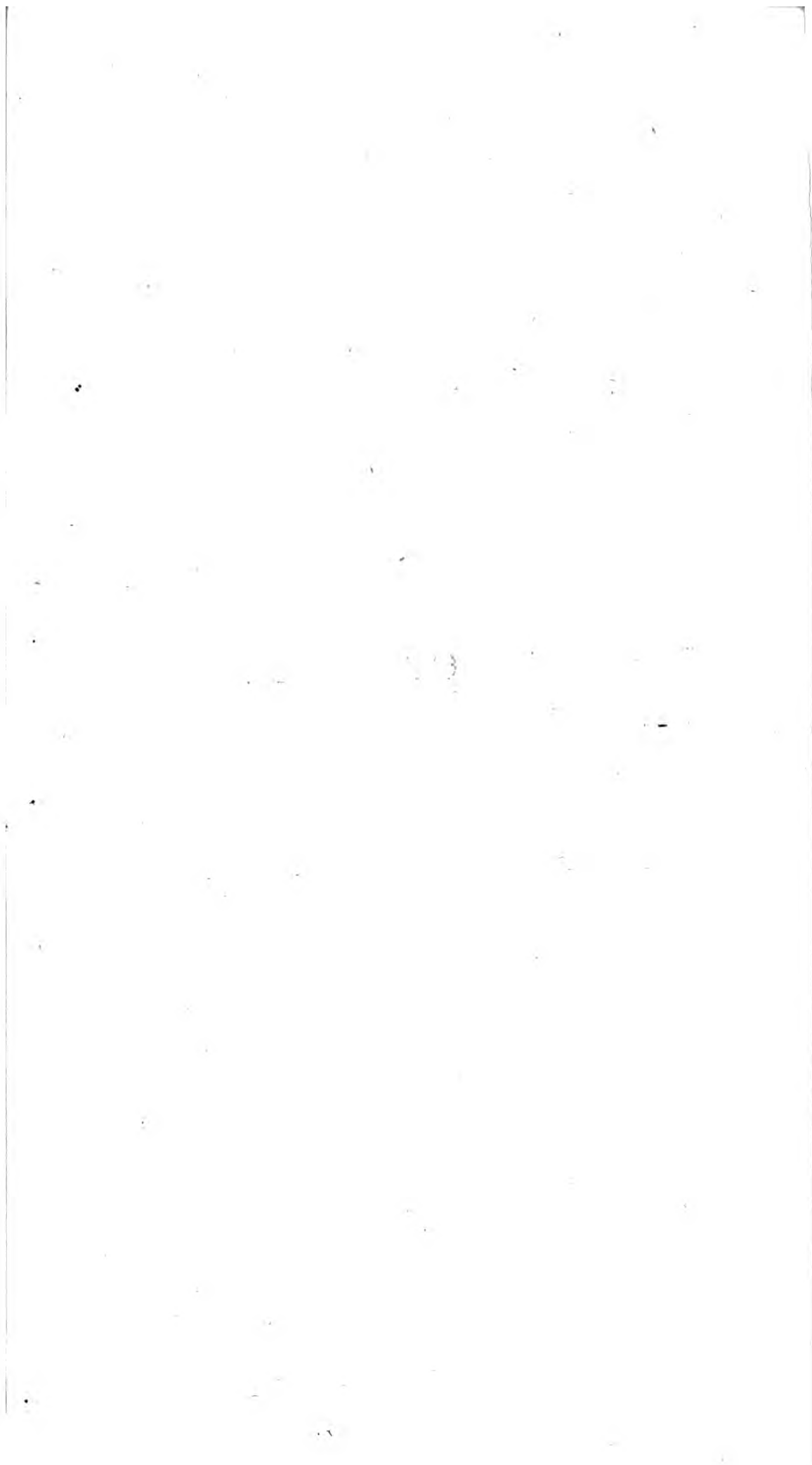


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**THE**  
**ENGLISH GARDEN.**

**BOOK THE THIRD.**

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THE  
ENGLISH GARDEN.

BOOK THE THIRD.

**C**LOS'D is that curious ear, by Death's cold hand,  
 That mark'd each error of my careless strain  
 With kind severity; to whom my Muse  
 Still lov'd to whisper, what she meant to sing  
 In louder accent; to whose taste supreme                   5  
 She first and last appeal'd, nor wish'd for praise,  
 Save when his smile was herald to her fame.  
 Yes, thou art gone; yet Friendship's fault'ring tongue  
 Invokes thee still; and still, by Fancy sooth'd,  
 Fain would she hope her GRAY attends the call.           10  
 Why then, alas! in this my fav'rite haunt  
 Place I the urn, the bust, the sculptur'd lyre,\*  
 Or fix this votive tablet, fair inscrib'd  
 With numbers worthy thee, for they are thine?  
 Why, if thou hear'st me still, these symbols sad           15  
 Of fond memorial? Ah! my pensive soul!  
 He hears me not, nor ever more shall hear  
 The theme his candour, not his taste approv'd.

\* Ver. 12; Note XVII.



Oft, ' smiling as in scorn,' oft would he cry,  
 " Why waste thy numbers on a trivial art,                    20  
 " That ill can mimic even the humblest charms  
 " Of all-majestic Nature?" at the word  
 His eye would glisten, and his accents glow  
 With all the Poet's frenzy, " Sov'reign Queen !  
 " Behold, and tremble, while thou view'st her state    25  
 " Thron'd on the heights of Skiddaw : call thy art  
 " To build her such a throne ; that art will feel  
 " How vain her best pretensions. Trace her march  
 " Amid the purple craggs of Borrowdale ;  
 " And try like those to pile thy range of rock            30  
 " In rude tumultuous chaos. See ! she mounts  
 " Her Naiad car, and, down Lodore's dread cliff  
 " Falls many a fathom, like the headlong Bard  
 " My fabling fancy plung'd in Conway's flood ;  
 " Yet not like him to sink in endless night :            35  
 " For, on its boiling bosom, still she guides  
 " Her buoyant shell, and leads the wave along ;  
 " Or spreads it broad, a river, or a lake,  
 " As suits her pleasure ; will thy boldest song  
 " E'er brace the sinews of enervate art                    40  
 " To such dread daring ? Will it ev'n direct  
 " Her hand to emulate those softer charms  
 " That deck the banks of Dove, or call to birth  
 " The bare romantic craggs, and copses green,  
 " That sidelong grace her circuit, whence the rills,    45  
 " Bright in their crystal purity, descend

“ To meet their sparkling Queen ? around each fount  
 “ The hawthorns crowd, and knit their blossom’d sprays  
 “ To keep their sources sacred. Here, even here,  
 “ Thy art, each active sinew stretch’d in vain,           50  
 “ Would perish in its pride. Far rather thou  
 “ Confess her scanty power, correct, controul,  
 “ Tell her how far, nor farther, she may go ;  
 “ And rein with Reason’s curb fantastic Taste.”

Yes, I will hear thee, dear lamented Shade,           55  
 And hold each dictate sacred. What remains  
 Unsung shall so each leading rule select  
 As if it still guided by thy judgment sage ;  
 While, as still modell’d to thy curious ear,  
 Flow my melodious numbers ; so shall praise,           60  
 If ought of praise the verse I weave may claim,  
 From just posterity reward my song.

Erewhile to trace the path, to form the fence,  
 To mark the destin’d limits of the lawn,  
 The Muse, with measur’d step, preceptive, pac’d.   65  
 Now from the surface with impatient flight  
 She mounts, Sylvanus ! o’er thy world of shade  
 To spread her pinions. Open all thy glades,  
 Greet her from all thy echoes. Orpheus-like,  
 Arm’d with the spells of harmony she comes,           70  
 To lead thy forests forth to lovelier haunts,  
 Where Fancy waits to fix them ; from the dell

Where now they lurk she calls them to possess  
 Conspicuous stations ; to their varied forms  
 Allots congenial place ; selects, divides, 75  
 And blends anew in one Elysian scene.

Yet, while I thus exult, my weak tongue feels  
 Its ineffectual powers, and seeks in vain  
 That force of ancient phrase which, speaking, paints,  
 And is the thing it sings. Ah Virgil ! why, 80  
 By thee neglected, was this loveliest theme  
 Left to the grating voice of modern reed ?  
 Why not array it in the splendid robe  
 Of thy rich diction, and consign the charge  
 To Fame thy handmaid, whose immortal plume 85  
 Had born its praise beyond the bounds of Time ?

Countless is Vegetation's verdant brood  
 As are the stars that stud yon cope of heaven ;  
 To marshal all her tribes in order'd file,  
 Generic, or specific, might demand 90  
 His science, wond'rous Swede ! whose ample mind,  
 Like ancient Tadmor's philosophic king,  
 Stretch'd from the hyssop creeping on the wall  
 To Lebanon's proudest cedars. Skill like this,  
 Which spans a third of Nature's copious realm, 95  
 Our art requires not, sedulous alone  
 To note those general properties of form,  
 Dimension, growth, duration, strength, and hue,

Then first imprest, when, at the dawn of time,  
 The form-deciding, life-inspiring word 100  
 Pronounc'd them into being. These prime marks  
 Distinctive, docile Memory makes her own,  
 That each its shadowy succour may supply  
 To her wish'd purpose ; first, with needful shade,  
 To veil whate'er of wall, or fence uncouth 105  
 Disgusts the eye, which tyrant Use has rear'd,  
 And stern Necessity forbids to change.

Lur'd by their hasty shoots, and branching stems,  
 Planters there are who choose the race of pine  
 For this great end, erroneous ; witless they 110  
 That, as their arrowy heads assault the sky,  
 They leave their shafts unfeather'd : rather thou  
 Select the shrubs that, patient of the knife,  
 Will thank thee for the wound, the hardy thorn,  
 Holly, or box, privet or pyracanth. 115  
 They, thickening from their base, with tenfold shade  
 Will soon replenish all thy judgment prun'd.

But chief with willing aid, her glittering green  
 Shall England's laurel bring ; swift shall she spread  
 Her broad-leav'd shade, and float it fair and wide, 120  
 Proud to be call'd an inmate of the soil.  
 Let England prize this daughter of the East\*  
 Beyond that Latian plant, of kindred name,

\* Ver. 122, Note XVIII.

That wreath'd the head of Julius ; basely twin'd  
 Its flattering foliage on the traitor's brow 125  
 Who crush'd his country's freedom. Sacred tree,  
 Ne'er be thy brighter verdure thus debas'd !  
 Far happier thou, in this sequester'd bower,  
 To shroud thy Poet, who with fost'ring hand,  
 Here bade thee flourish, and with grateful strain 130  
 Now chaunts the praise of thy maturer bloom.  
 And happier far that Poet, if secure  
 His hearth and altars from the pilfering slaves  
 Of power, his little eve of lonely life  
 May here steal on, blest with the heartfelt calm 135  
 That competence and liberty inspire.

Nor are the plants which England calls her own  
 Few or unlovely, that, with laurel join'd  
 And kindred foliage of perennial green,  
 Will form a close-knit curtain. Shrubs there are 140  
 Of bolder growth, that, at the call of Spring,  
 Burst forth in blossom'd fragrance : lilacs rob'd  
 In snow-white innocence, or purple pride ;  
 The sweet syringa yielding but in scent  
 To the rich orange ; or the woodbine wild 145  
 That loves to hang, on barren boughs remote,  
 Her wreaths of flowery perfume. These beside,  
 Myriads, that here the Muse neglects to name,  
 Will add a vernal lustre to thy veil.

And what if chance collects the varied tribes,      150  
 Yet fear not thou but unexpected charms  
 Will from their union start. But if our song  
 Supply one precept here, it bids retire  
 Each leaf of deeper dye, and lift in front  
 Foliage of paler verdure, so to spread      155  
 A canvass, which when touch'd by Autumn's hand  
 Shall gleam with dusky gold, or russet rays.  
 But why prepare for her funereal hand  
 That canvass? she but comes to dress thy shades,  
 As lovelier victims for their wintry tomb.      160  
 Rather to flowery Spring, to Summer bright,  
 Thy labour consecrate; their laughing reign,  
 The youth, the manhood of the growing year,  
 Deserves that labour, and rewards its pain.  
 Yet, heedful ever of that ruthless time      165  
 When Winter shakes their stems, preserve a file  
 With everduring leaf to brave his arm,  
 And deepening spread their undiminish'd gloom.

But, if the tall defect demands a screen  
 Of forest shade high tow'ring, some broad roof      170  
 Perchance of glaring tile that guards the stores  
 Of Ceres; or the patch'd disjointed choir  
 Of some old fane, whose steeple's Gothic pride  
 Or pinnacled, or spir'd, would bolder rise  
 ' In tufted trees high bosom'd,' here allot      175  
 Convenient space to plant that lofty tribe

Behind thy underwood, lest, o'er its head  
 The forest tyrants shake their lordly arms,  
 And shed their baleful dews. Each plant that springs  
 Holds, like the people of some free-born state, 180  
 Its right fair franchis'd; rooted to a spot  
 It yet has claim to air; from liberal heav'n  
 It yet has claim to sunshine, and to showers:  
 Air, showers, and sunshine are its liberty.

That liberty secur'd, a general shade, 185  
 Dense and impervious, to thy wish shall rise  
 To hide each form uncouth; and, this obtain'd,  
 What next we from the Dryad powers implore  
 Is grace, is ornament: For see! our lawn,  
 Though cloth'd with softest verdure, though reliev'd  
 By many a gentle fall and easy swell, 191  
 Expects that harmony of light and shade,  
 Which foliage only gives. Come then, ye plants!  
 That, like the village troop when Maia dawns,  
 Delight to mingle social; to the crest 195  
 Of yonder brow we safely may conduct  
 Your numerous train; no eye obstructed there  
 Will blame your interpos'd society:  
 But, on the plain below, in single stems  
 Disparted, or in sparing groups distinct, 200  
 Wide must ye stand, in wild, disorder'd mood,  
 As if the seeds from which your scions sprang  
 Had there been scatter'd from the affrighted beak

Of some maternal bird whom the fierce hawk  
Pursued with felon claw. Her young meanwhile 205  
Callow, and cold, from their moss-woven nest  
Peep forth; they stretch their little eager throats  
Broad to the wind, and plead to the lone spray  
Their famish'd plaint importunately shrill.

Yet in this wild disorder Art presides, 210  
Designs, corrects, and regulates the whole,  
Herself the while unseen. No cedar broad  
Drops his dark curtain where a distant scene  
Demands distinction. Here the thin abele  
Of lofty bole, and bare, the smooth'd-stemm'd beech,  
Or slender alder, give our eye free space 216  
Beneath their boughs to catch each lessening charm  
Ev'n to the far horizon's azure bound.

Nor will that sov'reign arbitress admit,  
Where'er her nod decrees a mass of shade, 220  
Plants of unequal size, discordant kind,  
Or rul'd by Foliation's different laws;  
But for that needful purpose those prefers  
Whose hues are friendly, whose coëval leaves  
The earliest open, and the latest fade. 225

Nor will she, scorning truth and taste, devote  
To strange, and alien soils, her seedling stems;  
Fix the dank sallow on the mountain's brow,



Or, to the moss-grown margin of the lake,  
 Bid the dry pine descend. From Nature's laws      230  
 She draws her own : Nature and she are one.

Nor will she, led by Fashion's lure, select,  
 For objects interpos'd, the pigmy race  
 Of shrubs, or scatter with unmeaning hand  
 Their offspring o'er the lawn, scorning to patch      235  
 With many a meagre and disjointed tuft  
 Its sober surface : sidelong to her path  
 And polish'd foreground she confines their growth  
 Where o'er their heads the liberal eye may range.

Nor will her prudence, when intent to form      240  
 One perfect whole, on feeble aid depend,  
 And give exotic wonders to our gaze.  
 She knows and therefore fears the faithless train :  
 Sagely she calls on those of hardy class  
 Indigenous, who, patient of the change      245  
 From heat to cold which Albion hourly feels,  
 Are brac'd with strength to brave it. These alone  
 She plants and prunes, nor grieves if nicer eyes  
 Pronounce them vulgar. These she calls her friends,  
 That veteran troop who will not for a blast      250  
 Of nipping air, like cowards, quit the field.

Far to the north of thy imperial towers,  
 Augusta ! in that wild and Alpine vale,

Through which the Swale, by mountain-torrents swell'd,  
 Flings his redundant stream, there liv'd a youth      255  
 Of polish'd manners ; ample his domain,  
 And fair the site of his paternal dome.  
 He lov'd the art I sing ; a deep adept  
 In Nature's story, well he knew the names  
 Of all her verdant lineage ; yet that skill      260  
 Misled his taste ; scornful of every bloom  
 That spreads spontaneous, from remotest Ind  
 He brought his foliage ; careless of its cost,  
 Ev'n of its beauty careless : it was rare,  
 And therefore beauteous. Now his laurel screen,      265  
 With rose and woodbine negligently wove,  
 Bows to the axe ; the rich magnolias claim  
 The station ; now Herculean beeches fell'd  
 Resign their rights, and warm Virginia sends  
 Her cedars to usurp them ; the proud oak      270  
 Himself, ev'n he, the sov'reign of the shade,  
 Yields to the fir that drips with Gilead's balm.  
 Now Albion gaze at glories not thy own !  
 Pause, rapid Swale ! and see thy margin crown'd  
 With all the pride of Ganges : vernal showers      275  
 Have fix'd their roots ; nutritious summer suns  
 Favour'd their growth ; and mildest autumn smil'd  
 Benignant o'er them : vigorous, fair, and tall,  
 They waft a gale of spices o'er the plain.  
 But Winter comes, and with him watery Jove,      280  
 And with him Boreas in his frozen shroud ;

The savage spirit of old Swale is rous'd ;  
 He howls amidst his foam. At the dread sight  
 The aliens stand aghast ; they bow their heads.  
 In vain the glassy penthouse is supply'd : 285  
 The pelting storm with icy bullets breaks  
 Its fragile barrier ; see ! they fade, they die.

Warn'd by his error, let the planter slight  
 These shiv'ring rarities ; or if, to please  
 Fastidious Fashion, he must needs allot 290  
 Some space for foreign foliage, let him chuse  
 A sidelong glade, shelter'd from east and north,  
 And free to southern and to western gales ;  
 There let him fix their station ; thither wind  
 Some devious path, that, from the chief design 295  
 Detach'd, may lead to where they safely bloom.  
 So in the web of epic song sublime  
 The Bard Mæonian interweaves the charm  
 Of softer episode, yet leaves unbroke  
 The golden thread of his majestic theme. 300

What else to shun of formal, false, or vain,  
 Of long-lin'd vistas or plantations quaint  
 Our former strains have taught. Instruction now  
 Withdraws ; she knows her limits ; knows that Grace  
 Is caught by strong perception, not from rules ; 305  
 That undrest Nature claims for all her limbs  
 Some simple garb peculiar, which, howe'er

Distinct their size and shape, is simple still :  
 This garb to chuse, with clothing dense, or thin,  
 A part to hide, another to adorn, 310  
 Is Taste's important task ; preceptive song  
 From error in the choice can only warn.

But vain that warning voice ; vain ev'ry aid  
 Of Genius, Judgment, Fancy, to secure  
 The planter's lasting fame : There is a power, 315  
 A hidden power, at once his friend, and foe :  
 'Tis Vegetation. Gradual to his groves  
 She gives their wish'd effect ; and, that display'd,  
 Oh, that her power would pause ! but active still,  
 She swells each stem, prolongs each vagrant bough, 320  
 And darts with unremitting vigour bold  
 From Grace to wild luxuriance. Happier far  
 Are you, ye sons of CLAUDE ! who, from the mine,  
 The earth, or juice of herb or flower concrete,  
 Mingle the mass whence your Arcadias spring ; 325  
 The beauteous outline of your pictur'd shades  
 Still keeps the bound you gave it ; time that pales  
 Your vivid hues, respects your pleasing forms.  
 Not so our landscapes : though we paint like you,  
 We paint with growing colours ; ev'ry year 330.  
 O'erpassing that which gives the breadth of shade  
 We sought, by rude addition mars our scene.

Rouse then, ye hinds ! e'er yet yon closing boughs  
 Blot out the purple distance, swift prevent

The spreading evil : thin the crowded glades, 335  
 While yet of slender size each stem will thrive  
 Transplanted : twice repeat the annual toil ;  
 Nor let the axe its beak, the saw its tooth  
 Refrain, whene'er some random branch has stray'd  
 Beyond the bounds of beauty ; else full soon, 340  
 Ev'n e'er the planter's life has past its prime,  
 Will Albion's garden frown an Indian wild.

Forboding fears avaunt ! be ours to urge  
 Each present purpose by what favouring means  
 May work its end design'd ; why deprecate 345  
 The change that waits on sublunary things,  
 Sad lot of their existence ? shall we pause  
 To give the charm of Water to our scene,  
 For that the congregated rains may swell  
 Its tide into a flood ? or that yon Sun, 350  
 Now on the Lion mounted, to his noon  
 Impells him, shaking from his fiery mane  
 A heat may parch its channel ? O, ye caves,  
 Deepen your dripping roofs ! this feverish hour \*  
 Claims all your coolness ; in your humid cells 355  
 Permit me to forget the planter's toil ;  
 And, while I woo your Naiads to my aid,  
 Involve me in impenetrable gloom.

Blest is the man (if bliss be human boast)  
 Whose fertile soil is wash'd with frequent streams, 360

\* Ver. 354, Note XIX.

And springs salubrious : he disdains to toss  
 In rainbow dews their crystal to the sun ;  
 Or sink in subterranean cisterns deep ;  
 That so, through leaden siphons upwards drawn,  
 Those streams may leap fantastic. He his ear 365  
 Shuts to the tuneful trifling of the Bard,\*  
 Who trick'd a gothic theme with classic flowers,  
 And sung of fountains bursting from the shells  
 Of brazen tritons, spouting through the jaws  
 ' Of gorgons, hydras, and chimæras dire.' 370

Peace to his manes ! let the nymphs of Seine  
 Cherish his fame. Thy Poet, Albion ! scorns,  
 Ev'n for a cold unconscious element  
 To forge the fetters he would scorn to wear.  
 His song shall reprobate each effort vile, 375  
 That aims to force the Genius of the stream  
 Beyond his native height ; or dares to press  
 Above that destin'd line th' unwilling wave.

Is there within the circle of thy view  
 Some sedgy flat, where the late-ripen'd sheaves 380  
 Stand brown with unblest mildew ? 'tis the bed  
 On which an ample lake in crystal peace  
 Might sleep majestic. Pause we yet ; perchance  
 Some midway channel, where the soil declines,  
 Might there be delv'd, by levels duly led 385  
 In bold and broken curves : for water loves

\* Ver. 366, Note XX.

A wilder outline than the woodland path,  
 And winds with shorter bend.\* To drain the rest  
 The shelving spade may toil, till wint'ry showers  
 Find their free course down each declining bank. 390  
 Quit then the thought : a river's winding form,  
 With many a sinuous bay, and island green,  
 At less expense of labour and of land,  
 Will give thee equal beauty ! seldom art  
 Can emulate that broad and bold extent 395  
 Which charms in native lakes ; and, failing there,  
 Her works betray their character and name,  
 And dwindle into pools. Not that our strain,  
 Fastidious, shall disdain a small expanse  
 Of stagnant fluid, in some scene confin'd, 400  
 Circled with varied shade, where, through the leaves,  
 The half-admitted sunbeam trembling plays  
 On its clear bosom ; where aquatic fowl,  
 Of varied tribe, and varied feather sail ;  
 And where the finny race their glittering scales 405  
 Unwillingly reveal : There, there alone,  
 Where bursts the general prospect on our eye,  
 We scorn these wat'ry patches : Thames himself,  
 Seen in disjointed spots, where Sallows hide  
 His first bold presence, seems a string of pools, 410  
 A chart and compass must explain his course.

He, who would seize the river's sov'reign charm,  
 Must wind the moving mirror through his lawn

\* Ver. 388, Note XXI.

Ev'n to remotest distance ; deep must delve  
 The gravelly channel that prescribes its course ; 415  
 Closely conceal each terminating bound  
 By hill or shade oppos'd ; and to its bank  
 Lifting the level of the copious stream,  
 Must there retain it. But, if thy faint springs  
 Refuse this large supply, steel thy firm soul 420  
 With stoic pride ; imperfect charms despise :  
 Beauty, like Virtue, knows no groveling mean.

Who but must pity that penurious taste,  
 Which down the quick-descending vale prolongs,  
 Slope below slope, a stiff and unlink'd chain 425  
 Of flat canals ; then leads the stranger's eye  
 To some predestin'd station, there to catch  
 Their seeming union, and the fraud approve ?  
 Who but must change that pity into scorn,  
 If down each verdant slope a narrow flight 430  
 Of central steps decline, where the spare stream  
 Steals trickling ; or, withheld by cunning skill,  
 Hoards its scant treasures, till the master's nod  
 Decree its fall : Then down the formal stairs  
 It leaps with short-liv'd fury ; wasting there, 435  
 Poor prodigal ! what many a Summer's rain  
 And many a Winter's snow shall late restore.

Learn that, whene'er in some sublimer scene  
 Imperial Nature of her headlong floods



Permits our imitation, she herself 440  
 Prepares their reservoir ; conceal'd perchance  
 In neighb'ring hills, where first it well behoves  
 Our toil to search, and studiously augment  
 The wat'ry store with springs and sluices drawn  
 From pools, that on the heath drink up the rain. 445  
 Be these collected, like the miser's gold,  
 In one increasing fund, nor dare to pour,  
 Down thy impending mound, the bright cascade,  
 Till richly sure of its redundant fall.

That mound to raise alike demands thy toil, 450  
 Ere art adorn its surface. Here adopt  
 That facile mode which his inventive powers \*  
 First plann'd, who led to rich Mancunium's mart  
 His long-drawn line of navigated stream.  
 Stupendous task ! in vain stood tow'ring hills 455  
 Oppos'd ; in vain did ample Irwell pour  
 Her tide transverse : he pierc'd the tow'ring hill,  
 He bridg'd the ample tide, and high in air,  
 And deep through earth, his freighted barge he bore.  
 This mode shall temper ev'n the lightest soil 460  
 Firm to thy purpose. Then let taste select  
 The unhewn fragments, that may give its front  
 A rocky rudeness ; pointed some, that there  
 The frothy spouts may break ; some slanting smooth,  
 That there in silver sheet the wave may slide. 465

\* Ver. 452, Note XXII.

Here too infix some moss-grown trunks of oak  
 Romantic, turn'd by gelid lakes to stone,  
 Yet so dispos'd as if they owed their change  
 To what they now control. Then open wide  
 Thy flood-gates; then let down thy torrent: then 470  
 Rejoice; as if the thund'ring Tees \* himself  
 Reign'd there amid his cataracts sublime.

And thou hast cause for triumph! Kings themselves,  
 With all a nation's wealth, an army's toil,  
 If Nature frown averse, shall ne'er achieve 475  
 Such wonders: Nature's was the glorious gift;  
 Thy art her menial handmaid. Listening youths!  
 To whose ingenuous hearts I still address  
 The friendly strain, from such severe attempt  
 Let Prudence warn you. Turn to this clear rill, 480  
 Which, while I bid your bold ambition cease,  
 Runs murmuring at my side: O'er many a rood  
 Your skill may lead the wanderer; many a mound  
 Of pebbles raise, to fret her in her course  
 Impatient: louder then will be her song: 485  
 For she will 'plain, and gurgle, as she goes,  
 As does the widow'd ring-dove. Take, vain Pomp!  
 Thy lakes, thy long canals, thy trim cascades,  
 Beyond them all true taste will dearly prize  
 This little dimpling treasure. Mark the cleft, 490  
 Through which she bursts to day. Behind that rock

\* Ver. 471, Note XXIII.

A Naiad dwells : LINEIA is her name ;\*  
 And she has sisters in contiguous cells,  
 Who never saw the sun. Fond Fancy's eye,  
 That inly gives locality and form 495  
 To what she prizes best, full oft pervades  
 Those hidden caverns, where pale chrysolites,  
 And glittering spars dart a mysterious gleam  
 Of inborn lustre, from the garish day  
 Unborrow'd. There, by the wild Goddess led, 500  
 Oft have I seen them bending o'er their urns,  
 Chaunting alternate airs of Dorian mood,  
 While smooth they comb'd their moist cerulean locks  
 With shells of living pearl. Yes, let me own,  
 To these, or classic deities like these, 505  
 From very childhood was I prone to pay  
 Harmless idolatry. My infant eyes  
 First open'd on that bleak and boist'rous shore,  
 Where Humber weds the nymphs of Trent and Ouse  
 To His, and Ocean's Tritons : thence full soon 510  
 My youth retir'd, and left the busy strand  
 To Commerce and to Care. In Margaret's grove, †  
 Beneath whose time-worn shade old Camus sleeps,  
 Was next my tranquil station : Science there  
 Sat musing ; and to those that lov'd the lore 515  
 Pointed, with mystic wand, to truths involv'd  
 In geometric symbols, scorning those,  
 Perchance too much, who woo'd the thriftless muse.

\* Ver. 492, Note XXIV.

† Ver. 512, Note XXV.

Here, though in warbling whisper oft I breath'd  
 The lay, were wanting, what young Fancy deems 520  
 The life-springs of her being, rocks, and caves,  
 And huddling brooks, and torrent-falls divine.  
 In quest of these, at Summer's vacant hour,  
 Pleas'd would I stray, when in a northern vale,  
 So chance ordain'd, a Naiad sad I found 525  
 Robb'd of her silver vase; I sooth'd the nymph  
 With song of sympathy, and curst the fiend  
 Who stole the gift of Thetis.\* Hence the cause  
 Why, favour'd by the blue-ey'd sisterhood,  
 They sooth with songs my solitary ear. 530

Nor is LINEIA silent—" Long," she cries,  
 " Too long has Man wag'd sacrilegious war  
 " With the vext elements, and chief with that,  
 " Which elder Thales, and the Bard of Thebes  
 " Held first of things terrestrial; nor misdeem'd: 535  
 " For, when the Spirit creative deign'd to move,  
 " He mov'd upon the waters. O revere  
 " Our power: for were its vital force withheld,  
 " Where then were Vegetation's vernal bloom,  
 " Where its autumnal wealth? but we are kind 540  
 " As powerful; O let reverence lead to love,  
 " And both to emulation! Not a rill,  
 " That winds its sparkling current o'er the plain,  
 " Reflecting to the Sun bright recompense  
 " For ev'ry beam he lends, but reads thy soul 545

\* Verse 528, Note XXIV.

“ A generous lecture. Not a pansy pale,  
 “ That drinks its daily nurture from that rill,  
 “ But breathes in fragrant accents to thy soul,  
 ‘ So by thy pity cheer’d, the languish’d head  
 ‘ Of poverty might smile.’ Who e’er beheld           550  
 “ Our humble train forsake their native vale  
 “ To climb the haughty hill? Ambition, speak!  
 “ He blushes, and is mute. When did our streams,  
 “ By force unpent, in dull stagnation sleep?  
 “ Let Sloth unfold his arms and tell the time.           555  
 “ Or, if the tyranny of Art infring’d  
 “ Our rights, when did our patient floods submit  
 “ Without recoil? Servility retires,  
 “ And clinks his gilded chain. O, learn from us,  
 “ And tell it to thy nation, British Bard!           560  
 “ Uncurb’d Ambition, unresisting Sloth,  
 “ And base Dependance are the fiends accurst  
 “ That pull down mighty empires. If they scorn  
 “ The awful truth, be thine to hold it dear.  
 “ So, through the vale of life, thy flowing hours           565  
 “ Shall glide serene; and, like *LINEIA*’s rill,  
 “ Their free, yet not licentious course fulfill’d,  
 “ Sink in the Ocean of Eternity.”

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**THE**  
**ENGLISH GARDEN.**  
**BOOK THE FOURTH.**

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THE  
ENGLISH GARDEN.

BOOK THE THIRD.

**N**OR yet, divine **SIMPLICITY**, withdraw  
 That aid auspicious, which, in Art's domain,  
 Already has reform'd whate'er prevail'd  
 Of foreign, or of false; has led the curve  
 That Nature loves through all her sylvan haunts;      5  
 Has stol'n the fence unnotic'd that arrests  
 Her vagrant herds; giv'n lustre to her lawns,  
 Gloom to her groves, and, in expanse serene,  
 Devolv'd that wat'ry mirror at her foot,  
 O'er which she loves to bend and view her charms.      10

And tell me thou, whoe'er hast new-arrang'd  
 By her chaste rules thy garden, if thy heart  
 Feels not the warm, the self-dilating glow  
 Of true benevolence. Thy flocks, thy herds,  
 That browse luxurious o'er those very plots      15  
 Which once were barren, bless thee for the change;  
 The birds of air (which thy funereal yews  
 Of shape uncouth, and leaden sons of earth,  
 Antæus and Enceladus, with clubs



Uplifted, long had frighted from the scene) 20  
 Now pleas'd return, they perch on ev'ry spray,  
 And swell their little throats, and warble wild  
 Their vernal minstrelsy ; to heav'n and thee  
 It is a hymn of thanks : do thou, like heav'n,  
 With tutelary care reward their song. 25

Erewhile the Muse, industrious to combine  
 Nature's own charms, with these alone adorn'd  
 The genius of the scene ; but other gifts  
 She has in store, which gladly now she brings,  
 And he shall proudly wear. Know, when she broke 30  
 The spells of Fashion, from the crumbling wreck  
 Of her enchantments sagely did she cull  
 Those reliques rich of old Vitruvian skill,  
 With what the sculptor's hand in classic days  
 Made breathe in brass or marble ; these the hag 35  
 Had purloin'd, and dispos'd in Folly's fane ;  
 To him these trophies of her victory  
 She bears ; and where his awful nod ordains  
 Conspicuous means to place. He shall direct  
 Her dubious judgment, from the various hoard 40  
 Of ornamental treasures, how to choose  
 The simplest and the best ; on these his seal  
 Shall stamp great Nature's image and his own,  
 To charm for unborn ages.—Fling the rest  
 Back to the beldame, bid her whirl them all 45  
 In her vain vortex, lift them now to day,

Now plunge in night, as, through the humid rack  
Of April cloud, swift flits the trembling beam.

But precepts tire, and this fastidious age  
Rejects the strain didactic : try we then 50  
In livelier narrative the truths to veil  
We dare not dictate. Sons of Albion, hear !  
The tale I tell is full of strange event,  
And piteous circumstance ; yet deem not ye,  
If names I feign, that therefore facts are feign'd : 55  
Nor hence refuse (what most augments the charm  
Of storied woe) that fond credulity  
Which binds th' attentive soul in closer chains.

At manhood's prime ALCANDER's duteous tear  
Fell on his father's grave. The fair domain, 60  
Which then became his ample heritage,  
That father had reform'd ; each line destroy'd  
Which Belgic dulness plann'd ; and Nature's self  
Restor'd to all the rights she wish'd to claim.

Crowning a gradual hill his mansion rose 65  
In antient English grandeur : Turrets, spires,  
And windows, climbing high from base to roof  
In wide and radiant rows, bespoke its birth  
Coëval with those rich cathedral fanes,  
(Gothic ill-nam'd) where harmony results 70  
From disunited parts ; and shapes minute,

At once distinct and blended, boldly form  
 One vast majestic whole. No modern art  
 Had marr'd with misplac'd symmetry the pile.  
 ALCANDER held it sacred : On a height, 75  
 Which westering to its site the front survey'd,  
 He first his taste employ'd : for there a line  
 Of thinly scatter'd beech too tamely broke  
 The blank horizon. " Draw we round yon knowl,"  
 ALCANDER cry'd, " in stately Norman mode, 80  
 " A wall embattled ; and within its guard  
 " Let every structure needful for a farm  
 " Arise in Castle-semblance ; the huge barn  
 " Shall with a mock portcullis arm the gate,  
 " Where Ceres entering, o'er the flail-proof floor 85  
 " In golden triumph rides ; some tower rotund  
 " Shall to the pigeons and their callow young  
 " Safe roost afford ; and ev'ry buttress broad,  
 " Whose proud projection seems a mass of stone,  
 " Give space to stall the heifer, and the steed. 90  
 " So shall each part, though turn'd to rural use,  
 " Deceive the eye with those bold feudal forms  
 " That Fancy loves to gaze on." This achiev'd,  
 Now nearer home he calls returning Art  
 To hide the structure rude where Winter pounds 95  
 In conic pit his congelations hoar,  
 That Summer may his tepid beverage cool  
 With the chill luxury ; his dairy too  
 There stands of form unsightly : both to veil,

He builds of old disjointed moss-grown stone      100  
 A time-struck abbey.\* An impending grove  
 Screens it behind with reverential shade ;  
 While bright in front the stream reflecting spreads,  
 Which winds a mimic river o'er his lawn.  
 The fane conventual there is dimly seen,      105  
 The mitred window, and the cloister pale,  
 With many a mouldering column ; ivy soon  
 Round the rude chinks her net of foliage spreads ;  
 Its verdant meshes seem to prop the wall.

One native glory, more than all sublime,      110  
 ALCANDER'S scene possess : 'twas Ocean's self——  
 He, boist'rous king, against the eastern cliffs  
 Dash'd his white foam ; a verdant vale between  
 Gave splendid ingress to his world of waves.  
 Slanting this vale the mound of that clear stream      115  
 Lay hid in shade, which slowly lav'd his lawn :  
 But there set free, the rill resum'd its pace,  
 And hurried to the main. The dell it past  
 Was rocky and retir'd : here art with ease  
 Might lead it o'er a grot, and filter'd there,      120  
 Teach it to sparkle down its craggy sides,  
 And fall and tinkle on its pebbled floor.  
 Here then that grot he builds, and conchs with spars,  
 Moss petrified with branching corallines  
 In mingled mode arranges : all found here      125

\* Ver. 101, Note XXVII.

Propriety of place ; what view'd the main  
 Might well the shelly gifts of Thetis bear.  
 Not so the inland cave : with richer store  
 Than those the neighb'ring mines and mountains yield  
 To hang its roof, would seem incongruous pride, 130  
 And fright the local genius from the scene.\*

One vernal morn, as urging here the work  
 Surrounded by his hinds, from mild to cold  
 The season chang'd, from cold to sudden storm,  
 From storm to whirlwind. To the angry main 135  
 Swiftly he turns and sees a laden ship  
 Dismasted by its rage. " Hie, hie we all,"  
 ALCANDER cry'd, " quick to the neighb'ring beach."  
 They flew ; they came but only to behold,  
 Tremendous sight ! the vessel dash its poop 140  
 Amid the boiling breakers. Need I tell  
 What strenuous arts were us'd, when all were us'd,  
 To save the sinking crew ? One tender maid  
 Alone escap'd, sav'd by ALCANDER'S arm,  
 Who boldly swam to snatch her from the plank 145  
 To which she feebly clung ; swiftly to shore,  
 And swifter to his home the youth convey'd  
 His clay-cold prize, who at his portal first  
 By one deep sigh a sign of life betray'd.

A maid so sav'd, if but by nature blest 150

\* Ver. 131, Note XXVIII.

With common charms, had soon awak'd a flame  
 More strong than Pity, in that melting heart  
 Which Pity warm'd before. But she was fair  
 As poets picture Hebe, or the Spring ;  
 Graceful withal, as if each limb were cast                    155  
 In that ideal mould whence RAPHAEL drew  
 His Galatea :\* Yes, the impassion'd youth  
 Felt more than pity when he view'd her charms.  
 Yet she (ah, strange to tell) though much he lov'd,  
 Supprest as much that sympathetic flame                    160  
 Which love like his should kindle : Did he kneel  
 In rapture at her feet ? she bow'd the head,  
 And coldly bad him rise ; or did he plead,  
 In terms of purest passion, for a smile ?  
 She gave him but a tear : his manly form,                    165  
 His virtues, ev'n the courage that preserv'd  
 Her life, beseem'd no sentiment to wake  
 Warmer than gratitude ; and yet the love  
 Withheld from him she freely gave his scenes ;  
 On all their charms a just applause bestow'd ;                    170  
 And, if she e'er was happy, only then  
 When wand'ring where those charms were most display'd.

As through a neighb'ring grove, where ancient beech  
 Their awful foliage flung, ALCANDER led  
 The pensive maid along, " Tell me," she cry'd,                    175  
 " Why, on these forest features all intent,

\* Ver. 157, Note XXIX.

“ Forbears my friend some scene distinct to give  
 “ To Flora and her fragrance? Well I know  
 “ That in the general landscape’s broad expanse  
 “ Their little blooms are lost; but here are glades, 180  
 “ Circled with shade, yet pervious to the sun,  
 “ Where, if enamell’d with their rainbow-hues,  
 “ The eye would catch their splendour: turn thy taste,  
 “ Ev’n in this grassy circle where we stand,  
 “ To form the plots; there weave a woodbine bower,  
 “ And call that bower **NERINA’S**.” At the word 186  
**ALCANDER** smil’d; his fancy instant form’d  
 The fragrant scene she wish’d; and **Love**, with **Art**  
 Uniting, soon produc’d the finish’d whole.

Down to the south the glade by **Nature** lean’d; 190  
**Art** form’d the slope still softer, opening there  
 Its foliage, and to each **Etesian** gale  
 Admittance free dispensing; thickest shade  
 Guarded the rest.—His taste will best conceive  
 The new arrangement, whose free footsteps, us’d 195  
 To forest haunts, have pierc’d their opening dells,  
 Where frequent tufts of sweetbriar, box, or thorn,  
 Steal on the greensward, but admit fair space  
 For many a mossy maze to wind between.  
 So here did **Art** arrange her flow’ry groups 200  
 Irregular, yet not in patches quaint,\*  
 But interpos’d between the wand’ring lines

\* Ver. 201, Note XXX.

Of shaven turf which twisted to the path,  
 Gravel or sand, that in as wild a wave  
 Stole round the verdant limits of the scene ;                    205  
 Leading the eye to many a sculptur'd bust  
 On shapely pedestal, of sage, or bard,  
 Bright heirs of fame, who living lov'd the haunts  
 So fragrant, so sequester'd. Many an urn  
 There too had place, with votive lay inscrib'd                    210  
 To freedom, friendship, solitude, or love.

And now each flow'r that bears transplanting change,  
 Or blooms indigenous, adorn'd the scene :  
 Only NERINA's wish, her woodbine bower,  
 Remain'd to crown the whole. Here, far beyond                    215  
 That humble wish, her lover's genius form'd  
 A glittering fane, where rare and alien plants  
 Might safely flourish ;\* where the citron sweet,  
 And fragrant orange, rich in fruit and flowers,  
 Might hang their silver stars, their golden globes,                    220  
 On the same odorous stem : Yet scorning there  
 The glassy penthouse of ignoble form,  
 High on Ionic shafts he bad it tower  
 A proud rotunda ; to its sides conjoin'd  
 Two broad piazzas in theatric curve,                                    225  
 Ending in equal porticos sublime.  
 Glass roof'd the whole, and sidelong to the south  
 'Twixt ev'ry fluted column, lightly rear'd

\* Ver. 218, Note XXXI.



Its wall pellucid. All within was day,  
 Was genial summer's day, for secret stoves 230  
 Through all the pile solstitial warmth convey'd.

These led through isles of fragrance to the dome,  
 Each way in circling quadrant. That bright space  
 Guarded the spicy tribes from Afric's shore,  
 Or Ind, or Araby, Sabæan plants 235  
 Weeping with nard, and balsam. In the midst  
 A statue stood, the work of Attic art ;  
 Its thin light drapery, cast in fluid folds,  
 Proclaim'd its ancientry ; all save the head,  
 Which stole (for love is prone to gentle thefts) 240  
 The features of NERINA ; yet that head,  
 So perfect in resemblance ; all its air  
 So tenderly impassion'd ; to the trunk,  
 Which Grecian skill had form'd, so aptly join'd  
 PHIDIAS himself might seem to have inspir'd 245  
 The chissel, brib'd to do the am'rous fraud.  
 One graceful hand held forth a flow'ry wreath,  
 The other prest her zone ; while round the base  
 Dolphins, and Triton shells, and plants marine  
 Proclaim'd, that Venus, rising from the sea, 250  
 Had veil'd in Flora's modest vest her charms.

Such was the fane, and such the Deity  
 Who seem'd, with smile auspicious, to inhale  
 That incense which a tributary world

From all its regions round her altar breath'd : 255  
 And yet, when to the shrine ALCANDER led  
 His living goddess, only with a sigh,  
 And starting tear, the statue and the dome  
 Reluctantly she view'd. And " why," she cry'd,  
 " Why would my best preserver here erect, 260  
 " With all the fond idolatry of love,  
 " A wretch's image whom his pride should scorn,  
 " (For so his country bids him)? Drive me hence,  
 " Transport me quick to Gallia's hostile shore,  
 " Hostile to thee, yet not, alas ! to her, 265  
 " Who there was meant to sojourn : there, perchance,  
 " My father, wafted by more prosp'rous gales,  
 " Now mourns his daughter lost ; my brother there  
 " Perhaps now sooths that venerable age  
 " He should not sooth alone. Vain thought ! perchance  
 " Both perish'd at Esopus—do not blush, 271  
 " It was not thou that lit the ruthless flame ;  
 " It was not thou, that like remorseless Cain,  
 " Thirsted for brother's blood : thy heart disdains  
 " The savage imputation. Rest thee there, 275  
 " And, though thou pitiest, yet forbear to grace,  
 " A wretched alien, and a rebel deem'd,  
 " With honours ill-beseeming her to claim.  
 " My wish, thou know'st, was humble as my state ;  
 " I only begg'd a little woodbine bower, 280  
 " Where I might sit and weep, while all around  
 " The lilies and the blue bells hung their heads

" In seeming sympathy." " Does then the scene  
 " Displease ?" the disappointed lover cry'd ;  
 " Alas ! too much it pleases," sigh'd the fair ;      285  
 " Too strongly paints the passion which stern Fate  
 " Forbids me to return ;" " Dost thou then love  
 " Some happier youth ?" " No ; tell thy generous soul  
 " Indeed I do not." More she would have said,  
 But gushing grief prevented. From the fane      290  
 Silent he led her, as from Eden's bower  
 The sire of men his weeping partner led,  
 Less lovely, and less innocent than she.

Yet still ALCANDER hop'd what last she sigh'd  
 Spoke more than gratitude : the war might end ;      295  
 Her father might consent ; for that alone  
 Now seem'd the duteous barrier to his bliss.  
 Already had he sent a faithful friend  
 To learn if France the reverend exile held :  
 That friend return'd not. Meanwhile ev'ry sun      300  
 Which now (a year elaps'd) diurnal rose  
 Beheld her still more pensive ; inward pangs,  
 From grief's concealment, hourly seem'd to force  
 Health from her cheek, and quiet from her soul.  
 ALCANDER mourn'd the change, yet still he hop'd ;      305  
 For Love to Hope his flickering taper lends,  
 When Reason with his steady torch retires :  
 Hence did he try by ever-varying arts,  
 And scenes of novel charm her grief to calm.

Nor did he not employ the syren powers                    310  
 Of Music and of Song; or Painting, thine,  
 Sweet source of pure delight! But I record  
 Those arts alone, which form my sylvan theme.

At stated hours, full oft had he observ'd,  
 She fed with welcome grain the household fowl            315  
 That trespass'd on his lawn; this wak'd a wish  
 To give her feather'd fav'rites space of land,  
 And lake appropriate: in a neighb'ring copse  
 He plann'd the scene; for there the crystal spring,  
 That form'd his river, from a rocky cleft                    320  
 First bubbling broke to day; and spreading there  
 Slept on its rushes. "Here my delving hinds,"  
 He cry'd, "shall soon the marshy soil remove,  
 "And spread, in brief extent, a glittering lake  
 "Chequer'd with isles of verdure; on yon rock            325  
 "A sculptur'd river-god shall rest his urn;  
 "And through that urn the native fountain flow.  
 "Thy wish-for bower, NERINA, shall adorn  
 "The southern bank; the downy race, that swim  
 "The lake, or pace the shore, with livelier charms,    330  
 "Yet no less rural, here will meet thy glance,  
 "Than flowers inanimate." Full soon was scoop'd  
 'The wat'ry bed, and soon, by margin green  
 And rising banks, inclos'd; the highest gave  
 Site to a rustic fabric, shelving deep                    335  
 Within the thicket, and in front compos'd

Of three unequal arches, lowly all  
 The surer to expel the noontide glare,  
 Yet yielding liberal inlet to the scene ;  
 Woodbine with jasmine carelessly entwin'd      340  
 Conceal'd the needful masonry, and hung  
 In free festoons, and vested all the cell.  
 Hence did the lake, the islands, and the rock,  
 A living landscape spread ; the feather'd fleet,  
 Led by two mantling swans, at ev'ry creek      345  
 Now touch'd, and now unmoor'd ; now on full sail,  
 With pennons spread and oary feet they ply'd  
 Their vagrant voyage ; and now, as if becalm'd,  
 'Tween shore and shore at anchor seem'd to sleep.  
 Around those shores the fowl that fear the stream      350  
 At random rove : hither hot Guinea sends  
 Her gadding troop ; here midst his speckled dames  
 The pigmy chanticleer of Bantam winds  
 His clarion ; while, supreme in glittering state,  
 The peacock spreads his rainbow train, with eyes      355  
 Of sapphire bright, irradiate each with gold.  
 Meanwhile from ev'ry spray the ring-doves coo,  
 The linnets warble, captive none,\* but lur'd  
 By food to haunt the umbrage : all the glade  
 Is life, is music, liberty, and love.      360

And is there now to pleasure or to use  
 One scene devoted in the wide domain

\* Ver. 358, Note XXXII.

Its master has not polish'd? Rumour spreads  
 Its praises far, and many a stranger stops  
 With curious eye to censure or admire. 365  
 To all his lawns are pervious; oft himself  
 With courteous greeting will the critic hail,  
 And join him in the circuit. Give we here  
 (If Candour will with patient ear attend)  
 The social dialogue ALCANDER held 370  
 With one, a youth of mild yet manly mein,  
 Who seem'd to taste the beauties he survey'd.

“ Little, I fear me, will a stranger's eye  
 “ Find here to praise, where rich Vitruvian art  
 “ Has rear'd no temples, no triumphal arcs; 375  
 “ Where no Palladian bridges span the stream,  
 “ But all is homebred Fancy.” “ For that cause,  
 “ And chiefly that,” the polish'd youth reply'd,  
 “ I view each part with rapture. Ornament,  
 “ When foreign or fantastic, never charm'd 380  
 “ My judgment; here I tread on British ground;  
 “ With British annals all I view accords.  
 “ Some Yorkist, or Lancastrian baron bold,  
 “ To awe his vassals, or to stem his foes,  
 “ Yon massy bulwark built; on yonder pile 385  
 “ In ruin beauteous, I distinctly mark  
 “ The ruthless traces of stern HENRY's hand.

“ Yet,” cry'd ALCANDER, (interrupting mild

The stranger's speech) " if so yon ancient seat,  
 " Pride of my ancestors, had mock'd repair, 390  
 " And by Proportion's Greek or Roman laws  
 " That pile had been rebuilt, thou wouldst not then,  
 " I trust, have blam'd, if, there on Doric shafts  
 " A temple rose ; if some tall obelisk  
 " O'ertopt yon grove, or bold triumphal arch 395  
 " Usurpt my castle's station."— " Spare me yet  
 " Yon solemn ruin," the quick youth return'd,  
 " No mould'ring aqueduct, no yawning crypt  
 " Sepulchral, will console me for its fate."

" I mean not that," the master of the scene 400  
 Reply'd ; " though classic rules to modern piles  
 " Should give the just arrangement, shun we here  
 " By those to form our ruins ; much we own  
 " They please, when, by PANINI's pencil drawn,  
 " Or darkly grav'd by PIRANESI's hand, 405  
 " And fitly might some Tuscan garden grace ;  
 " But Time's rude mace has here all Roman piles  
 " Levell'd so low, that who, on British ground  
 " Attempts the task, builds but a splendid lie  
 " Which mocks historic credence. Hence the cause  
 " Why Saxon piles or Norman here prevail : 411  
 " Form they a rude, 'tis yet an English whole."

" And much I praise thy choice," the stranger cry'd ;  
 " Such chaste selection shames the common mode,

“ Which, mingling structures of far distant times, 415  
 “ Far distant regions, here, perchance, erects  
 “ A fane to Freedom, where her BRUTUS stands  
 “ In act to strike the tyrant; there a tent,  
 “ With crescent crown’d, with scymitars adorn’d,  
 “ Meet for some BAJAZET; northward we turn, 420  
 “ And lo! a pigmy pyramid pretends  
 “ We tread the realms of PHAROAH; quickly thence  
 “ Our southern step presents us heaps of stone  
 “ Rang’d in a DRUID circle. Thus from age  
 “ To age, from clime to clime incessant borne, 425  
 “ Imagination flounders headlong on,  
 “ Till, like fatigu’d VILLARIO,\* soon we find  
 “ We better like a field.” “ Nicely thy hand  
 “ The childish landscape touches,” cries his host,  
 “ For Fashion ever is a wayward child; 430  
 “ Yet sure we might forgive her faults like these,  
 “ If but in separate or in single scenes  
 “ She thus with Fancy wanton’d: should I lead  
 “ Thy step, my friend, (for our accordant tastes  
 “ Prompt me to give thee that familiar name) 435  
 “ Behind this screen of elm, thou there might’st find  
 “ I too had idly play’d the truant’s part,  
 “ And broke the bounds of judgment.” “Lead me there,”  
 Briskly the youth return’d, “ for having prov’d  
 “ Thy Epic Genius here, why not peruse 440  
 “ Thy lighter Ode or Eclogue?” Smiling thence

\* Ver. 427, Note XXXIII.



ALCANDER led him to the woodbine bower  
Which last our song describ'd, who seated there,  
In silent transport view'd the lively scene.

“ I see, his host resum'd, “ my sportive art           445  
“ Finds pardon here ; not ev'n yon classic form,  
“ Pouring his liquid treasures from his vase,  
“ Though foreign from the soil, provokes thy frown.\*  
“ Try we thy candor farther : higher art,  
“ And more luxurious, haply too more vain,           450  
“ Adorns yon southern coppice.” On they past  
Through a wild thicket, till the perfum'd air  
Gave to another sense its prelude rich  
On what the eye should feast. But now the grove  
Expands ; and now the rose, the garden's Queen,   455  
Amidst her blooming subjects' humbler charms,  
On ev'ry plot her crimson pomp displays.  
“ Oh Paradise !” the ent'ring youth exclaim'd,  
“ Groves whose rich trees weep odorous gums and balm,  
“ Others whose fruit, burnish'd with golden rind,   460  
“ Hang amiable, Hesperian fables true,  
“ If true here only.”† Thus, in Milton's phrase  
Sublime, the youth his admiration pour'd,  
While passing to the dome ; his next short step  
Unveil'd the central statue ; “ Heav'ns ! just Heav'ns,”  
He cry'd, “ 'tis my NERINA.” “ Thine, mad youth ?  
“ Forego the word,” ALCANDER said, and paus'd ;

\* Ver 448, Note XXXIV.      † Ver. 462, Note XXXV.

His utterance fail'd ; a thousand clust'ring thoughts,  
 And all of blackest omen to his peace,  
 Recoil'd upon his brain, deaden'd all sense,                   470  
 And at the statue's base him headlong cast,  
 A lifeless load of being.—Ye, whose hearts  
 Are ready at Humanity's soft call  
 To drop the tear, I charge you weep not yet,  
 But fearfully suspend the bursting woe :                   475  
 NERINA's self appears; the further isle  
 She, fate-directed, treads. Does she too faint?  
 Would Heav'n she could ! it were a happy swoon  
 Might soften her fixt form, more rigid now  
 Than is her marble semblance. One stiff hand           480  
 Lies leaden on her breast ; the other rais'd  
 To heav'n, and half-way clench'd ; steadfast her eyes,  
 Yet viewless ; and her lips, which op'd to shriek,  
 Can neither shriek nor close. So might she stand  
 For ever : He whose sight caus'd the dread change, 485  
 Though now he clasps her in his anxious arm,  
 Fails to unbend one sinew of her frame ;  
 'Tis ice ; 'tis steel. But see, ALCANDER wakes ;  
 And waking, as by magic sympathy,  
 NERINA whispers, " all is well, my friend ;           490  
 " 'Twas but a vision ; I may yet revive——  
 " But still his arm supports me ; aid him, friend,  
 " And bear me swiftly to my woodbine bower :  
 " For there indeed I wish to breathe my last."

So saying, her cold cheek, and parched brow,      495  
 Turn'd to a livid paleness ; her dim eyes  
 Sunk in their sockets ; sharp contraction prest  
 Her temples, ears, and nostrils : signs well known  
 To those that tend the dying.\* Both the youths  
 Perceiv'd the change ; and had stern Death himself 500  
 Wav'd his black banner visual o'er their heads,  
 It could not more appall. With trembling step,  
 And silent, both convey'd her to the bower.

Her languid limbs there decently compos'd,  
 She thus her speech resum'd : “ Attend my words 505  
 “ Brave CLEON ! dear ALCANDER ! generous pair :  
 “ For both have tender interest in this heart  
 “ Which soon shall beat no more. That I am thine  
 “ By a dear father's just commands I own,  
 “ Much-honour'd CLEON ! take the hand he gave, 510  
 “ And with it, Oh, if I could give my heart,  
 “ Thou wert its worthy owner. All I can,  
 “ (And that preserv'd with chastest fealty)  
 “ Duteous I give thee, CLEON it is thine ;  
 “ Not ev'n this dear preserver, e'er could gain      515  
 “ More from my soul than friendship—that be his ;  
 “ Yet let me own, what, dying, soothes the pang,  
 “ That, had thyself and duty ne'er been known,  
 “ He must have had my love.” She paus'd ; and dropt  
 A silent tear: then prest the stranger's hand ;      520

\* Ver. 499, Note XXXVI.

Then bow'd her head upon ALCANDER's breast,  
And "bless them both, kind Heav'n!" she pray'd and died.

"And blest art thou," cry'd CLEON, (in a voice  
Struggling with grief for utterance) blest to die  
"Ere thou hadst question'd me, and I perforce 525  
"Had told a tale which must have sent thy soul  
"In horror from thy bosom. Now it leaves  
"A smile of peace upon those pallid lips,  
"That speaks its parting happy. Go, fair saint!  
"Go to thy palm-crown'd father! thron'd in bliss, 530  
"And seated by his side, thou wilt not now  
"Deplore the savage stroke that seal'd his doom;  
"Go hymn the Fount of Mercy, who, from ill  
"Educing good, makes ev'n a death like his,  
"A life surcharg'd with tender woes like thine, 535  
"The road to joys eternal. Maid, farewell!  
"I leave the casket that thy virtues held  
"To him whose breast sustains it; more belov'd,  
"Perhaps more worthy, yet not loving more  
"Than did thy wretched CLEON." At the word 540  
He bath'd in tears the hand she dying gave,  
Return'd it to her side, and hasty rose.  
ALCANDER starting from his trance of grief,  
Cry'd "Stay, I charge thee stay:" "and shall he stay,"  
CLEON reply'd, "whose presence stabb'd thy peace?  
"Hear this before we part: That breathless Maid 545  
"Was daughter to a venerable Sage,

“ Whom Boston, when with peace and safety blest,  
 “ In rapture heard pour from his hallow’d tongue  
 “ Religion’s purest dictates. ’Twas my chance, 550  
 “ In early period of our civil broils,  
 “ To save his precious life : And hence the Sire  
 “ Did to my love his daughter’s charms consign ;  
 “ But, till the war should cease, if ever cease,  
 “ Deferr’d our nuptials. Whither she was sent 555  
 “ In search of safety, well, I trust, thou know’st ;  
 “ He meant to follow ; but those ruthless flames,  
 “ That spar’d nor friend nor foe, nor sex nor age,  
 “ Involv’d the village, where on sickly couch  
 “ He lay confin’d, and whither he had fled 560  
 “ Awhile to sojourn. There (I see thee shrink)  
 “ Was he, that gave NERINA being, burnt !  
 “ Burnt by thy countrymen ! to ashes burnt !  
 “ Fraternal hands and christian lit the flame.—  
 “ Oh thou hast cause to shudder. I meanwhile 565  
 “ With his brave son a distant warfare wag’d :  
 “ And him, now I have found the prize I sought,  
 “ And finding lost, I hasten to rejoin ;  
 “ Vengeance and glory call me.” At the word,  
 Not fiercer does the tigress quit her cave 570  
 To seize the hinds that robb’d her of her young,  
 Than he the bower. “ Stay, I conjure thee, stay,”  
 ALCANDER cry’d ; but ere the word was spoke  
 CLEON was seen no more. “ Then be it so,”  
 The youth continued, clasping to his heart 575

The beauteous corse, and smiling as he spoke,  
 (Yet such a smile as far out-sorrows tears)  
 “ Now thou art mine entirely—Now no more  
 “ Shall duty dare disturb us—Love alone—  
 “ But hark! he comes again—Away vain fear!      580  
 “ ’Twas but the fluttering of thy feather’d flock.  
 “ True to their custom’d hour, behold they troop  
 “ From island, grove, and lake. Arise my love,  
 “ Extend thy hand—I lift it, but it falls.  
 “ Hence then, fond fools, and pine! NERINA’S hand  
 “ Has lost the power to feed you. Hence and die.” 586

Thus plaining, to his lips the icy palm  
 He lifted, and with ardent passion kiss’d;  
 Then cry’d in agony, “ on this dear hand,  
 “ Once tremblingly alive to Love’s soft touch,      590  
 “ I hop’d to seal my faith:” This thought awak’d  
 Another sad soliloquy, which they,  
 Who e’er have lov’d, will from their hearts supply,  
 And they who have not will but hear and smile.

And let them smile; but let the scorners learn      595  
 There is a solemn luxury in grief  
 Which they shall never taste; well known to those,  
 And only those, in Solitude’s deep gloom  
 Who heave the sigh sincerely: Fancy there  
 Waits the fit moment; and, when Time has calm’d 600  
 The first o’erwhelming tempest of their woe,

Piteous she steals upon the mourner's breast  
 Her precious balm to shed : Oh, it has power,  
 Has magic power to soften and to sooth,  
 Thus duly minister'd. **ALCANDER** felt 605  
 The charm, yet not till many a ling'ring moon  
 Had hung upon her zenith o'er his couch,  
 And heard his midnight wailings. Does he stray  
 But near the fated temple, or the bower?  
 He feels a chilly monitor within 610  
 Who bids him pause. Does he at distance view  
 His grot? 'tis darken'd with **NERINA**'s storm,  
 Ev'n at the blaze of noon. Yet there are walks  
 The lost one never trod; and there are seats  
 Where he was never happy by her side, 615  
 And these he still can sigh in. Here at length,  
 As if by chance, kind Fancy brought her aid,  
 When wand'ring through a grove of sable yew,  
 Rais'd by his ancestors : their Sabbath-path  
 Led through its gloom, what time too dark a stole 620  
 Was o'er Religion's decent features drawn  
 By puritanic zeal. Long had their boughs  
 Forgot the sheers; the spire, the holy ground  
 They banish'd by their umbrage. "What if here,"  
 Cry'd the sweet soother, in a whisper soft, 625  
 "Some open space were form'd, where other shades,  
 "Yet all of solemn sort, cypress and bay  
 "Funereal, pensive birch its languid arms  
 "That droops, with waving willows deem'd to weep,

“ And shiv’ring aspens mixt their varied green ;      630  
 “ What if yon trunk, shorn of its murky crest,  
 “ Reveal’d the sacred fane ?” ALCANDER heard  
 The Charmer ; ev’ry accent seem’d his own,  
 So much they touch’d his heart’s sad unison.  
 “ Yes, yes,” he cry’d, “ Why not behold it all ?      635  
 “ That bough remov’d shews me the very vault  
 “ Where my NERINA sleeps, and where, when heav’n  
 “ In pity to my plaint the mandate seals,  
 “ My dust with her’s shall mingle.” Now his hinds,  
 Call’d to the task, their willing axes wield :      640  
 Joyful to see, as witless of the cause,  
 Their much-lov’d lord his sylvan arts resume.  
 And next, within the centre of the gloom,  
 A shed of twisting roots and living moss,  
 With rushes thatch’d, with wattled oziers lin’d,      645  
 He bids them raise : \* it seem’d a hermit’s cell ;  
 Yet void of hour-glass, scull, and maple dish,  
 Its mimic garniture : ALCANDER’S taste  
 Disdains to trick, with emblematic toys,  
 The place where he and Melancholy mean.      650  
 To fix NERINA’S bust, her genuine bust,  
 The model of the marble. There he hides,  
 Close as a miser’s gold, the sculptur’d clay ;  
 And but at early morn and latest eve  
 Unlocks the simple shrine, and heaves a sigh :      655  
 Then does he turn, and through the glimm’ring glade

\* Ver. 646, Note XXXVII.



Cast a long glance upon her house of death ;  
 Then views the bust again, and drops a tear.  
 Is this idolatry, ye sage ones say ?——  
 Or, if ye doubt, go view the num'rous train           660  
 Of poor and fatherless his care consoles ;  
 The sight will tell thee, he that dries their tears  
 Has unseen angels hov'ring o'er his head,  
 Who leave their heav'n to see him shed his own.

Here close we, sweet SIMPLICITY ! the tale,           665  
 And with it let us yield to youthful bards  
 That Dorian reed we but awak'd to voice  
 When Fancy prompted, and when Leisure smil'd ;  
 Hopeless of general praise, and well repaid,  
 If they of classic ear, unpall'd by rhyme,           670  
 Whom changeful pause can please, and numbers free,  
 Accept our song with candour. They perchance,  
 Led by the Muse to solitude and shade,  
 May turn that art we sing to soothing use,  
 At this ill-omen'd hour, when Rapine rides           675  
 In titled triumph ; when Corruption waves  
 Her banners broadly in the face of day,  
 And shews th' indignant world the host of slaves  
 She turns from Honour's standard. Patient there,  
 Yet not desponding, shall the sons of Peace           580  
 Await the day, when, smarting with his wrongs,  
 Old England's Genius wakes ; when with him wakes  
 That plain integrity, contempt of gold,

Disdain of slav'ry, liberal awe of rule  
Which fixt the rights of people, peers, and prince, 685  
And on them founded the majestic pile  
Of BRITISH FREEDOM ; bad fair Albion rise  
The scourge of tyrants ; sovereign of the seas ;  
And arbitress of empires. Oh return,  
Ye long-lost train of Virtues ! swift return 690  
To save ('tis ALBION prompts your Poet's prayer)  
Her throne, her altars, and her laureat bowers.

END OF THE FOURTH BOOK.



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**COMMENTARY**

**AND**

**NOTES.**

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# COMMENTARY

ON THE

## FIRST BOOK.

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### INTRODUCTION.

**G**ARDENING imparts to rural scenery what a noble and graceful deportment confers upon the human frame : it is not an imitative art, it is more, it is an endeavour to bestow on each individual reality, those beauties which judicious imitation would select from many, and combine in one fictitious representation. That the son of Achilles was as much inferior in person to his father, as the most perfect human forms are to the finest statues, is the declaration of the skilful Philostratus ; and amounts to a full acknowledgment of the inferiority of individual nature to selective art. If, therefore, by any means the original can be brought under the obedience of those laws, by which she is imitated to advantage, an art is then devised as much superior to those which merely deal in imitation, as motion and reality are superior to fiction and inanimate rest : it is only in right of their constitution and laws, that the imitative arts are entitled

to any preference ; but these are now transferred and set over a more noble dominion. (A)

To establish their empire, and pronounce their decrees in the province of Landscape, is the purpose of the foregoing Poem ; to mark the connexion, to point out the principles, and sometimes to extend the application of the precepts delivered by the Poet, is the purpose of this Commentary : it was written originally in the margin of the Poem, and has been so fortunate as not only to receive the approbation, but actually now to appear before the world, under the sanction of its Author. Thus honoured, it is little solicitous concerning the reception it may there meet with : for should it even come short of the favourable expectations he has been pleased to entertain, and fail to promote the delightful art it is designed to serve, one private end, at least, must still be answered, and my best pride will receive its ample satisfaction from seeing my name thus publicly connected with that of Mr. Mason.

From what is here said, it is obvious that the poetical merits of the English Georgic are not under my consideration ; it will be inferred, perhaps, that I am precluded from giving an opinion on that head ; I am so : yet why have I studiously considered and noted the Poem ? The necessary answer to this question will give my judgment ; in terms very general, I grant ; but thus

alone, by leaving it for others to draw the inference, I am enabled to evade the prohibition I am under.

I confess that the subject also, exclusive of the manner in which it has been treated, has charms for me sufficient to engage my attention : If reason has her sports, they are worthy the pursuit of reason ; and I am far from concurring with the mathematical reader of Virgil, who, having perused the *Æneid*, laid down the book, and then contemptuously pronounced that it might, perhaps, be very good ; but for his part he could not see the use of it, because, forsooth, it proved nothing.

In the class with this sentence we must also rank the surly and sullen speculation which would insinuate reflections on an art that successfully undertakes to embellish and render Nature universally lovely. To extinguish the finest faculty of the human mind, or pervert the natural taste for the pleasures thence derived, will not, I trust, however arrogantly claimed, be generally considered as the business of reason ; and therefore we are constrained to account for the savage and cynical censures which would deprive us of the delights of Poetry and Gardening, by referring them to an absolute ignorance of the respective subjects, and a total defect of the imagination.

But it is so far from being the true business of reason



to degrade, that to cultivate and enlarge the imagination is, perchance, the happiest fruit of her genuine researches. It is by means of this sense of the intellect that our convictions, in a thousand instances, become our pleasures; and by facilitating the comprehension of remote objects it is that reason renders them the objects of this faculty; we are thus rendered sensible of the beauty of holiness, the beauty of virtue, the beauty of system, and even of the beauty of theorem; and shall an easier accessibility derogate from our sense of the beauty of nature? when reason is not disgraced in thus referring her issues to the imagination, I can see no just cause why our educated sense of beauty should be sullenly refused the full enjoyment of those objects which, by the benevolent Author of Nature, were originally adapted to her immediate possession.

It is not however without some discriminating powers of the mind that the beauties of Nature are even discerned; the imagination must be correct and pure to select with judgment the scenes that are most worthy of contemplation. And if to enjoy require an act of the cultivated understanding, it will not be denied that to open the sources of enjoyment, and to design and execute, so as to give pleasure to the taste of an improved intellect, demands the exertion of much greater powers of the mind. What, for example, can be accomplished without a critical knowledge of the rules of composition,

and a vigorous fancy to forecast, in each particular instance, the future effects of their judicious application? Can a ready observation to detect a latent grace, and to discern the advantages it is capable of receiving from art, be dispensed with? And can the ignorance of any mechanical science be supposed in the genuine Gardener, whose occupation is a perpetual display of even consummate skill in the comprehensive theories of Painting and Architecture? But, referring my reader to the Author's motto, let me here cease farther to apologize for the liberality of an art which he, who of all mankind best understood the true business of reason, has not disdained to consider as "the perfection of civility," or to rank as "the purest of human pleasures."

The plan of the *ENGLISH GARDEN* is made to correspond with its subject, which is single, and in which the parts, however numerous, are evidently the parts of one uniform whole. The practical precepts, delivered in the three latter books of the Poem in like manner, are but the amplifications of one fundamental and universally pervading principle, to the doctrine and establishment of which, as a common basis, the commencing book has been accordingly assigned by the Poet.

## THE COMMENTARY.

Ver. **T**HE Poem begins with an invocation to **SIMPLICITY**,  
 1 the inseparable attendant upon genuine **Beauty** and **Grace**; and this with much judgment, because the interference of **Simplicity** is necessary to controul the natural tendency of **Art**, which is ever more apt to overcharge her work, than fall short of the golden mean, which is the perfection of **Nature**, and of every artifice to imitate or adorn her. A defective taste, like a phlegmatic disposition, requires provocatives to excite an interest: Where the wit of **Terence** or **Addison** would fail to obtain a smile, the boisterous and ribbald jest will be attended by acclamations of joy; and actual afflictions are required to extort a tear from the eye that can view the fictitious miseries of the stage without emotion. In like manner it is that gaudy hues, violent contrasts, and a surface rough with sculpture and fluttering projections, invite the admiration of such as are blind to the harmony of colouring, the tender varieties of light and shadow, the graces of well-poised disposition, and the majestic dignity of just proportion: And from the same principle, it is probable, that the formal magnificence of our antient gardens would, on a comparison, find a more

general suffrage than the delicious domestic scenes Ver.  
 which are peculiar to our day: for the sumptuous art,  
 which obliterates what it should only adorn, and thus  
 obtrudes itself alone upon the eye, solicits the vulgar and  
 will thence obtain a preference to that which, modestly  
 ministering to Nature, sets forward only her charms  
 and withdraws itself from observation. To correct and  
 strengthen the judgment, and consequently to reform  
 this vicious taste, is the great purpose of the Poet; and  
 while he is about to teach, he seeks to place the conduct  
 of his Poem under the same just restrictions that he  
 prescribes to the kindred art which forms its subject.—  
 That sweet Simplicity, which should thus preside in  
 every art, is excellently described by Quintilian: “Quen-  
 “ dam purum, qualis etiam in feminis amatur, ornatum  
 “ habet; et sunt quædam velut é tenui diligentia circa  
 “ proprietatem significationemque munditiæ. Alia copiâ  
 “ locuples, alia floribus læta; virium non unum genus,  
 “ nam quicquid in suo genere satis effectum est valet.”  
*Institut. Lib. VIII.*

The assistance of the two sister muses of poetry and 18  
 painting, is likewise invoked to promote a kindred art,  
 an art in which the attributes of both are engaged: for  
 that taste which is required either to enjoy, to design, or  
 critically to instruct in the means to design the beauties  
 of scenery, must result from an union of the Poet's deli-  
 cate feelings, and the painter's practiced judgment to

Ver. select the objects by which they are best excited. Ever  
 18 since the days of Simonides, who declared painting to be silent poetry, and poetry to be speaking picture, critics of all ranks and sizes have touched, and some have even extensively expatiated upon the affinity of these two arts. To prove that Gardening is of their sisterhood, it might be enough to say, that she makes her address to the same mental source of pleasure, and so rank the whole doctrine under the equally acknowledged assertion of antiquity, that all the arts are of one family. Gardening, I grant, has heretofore in a manner withdrawn herself from her relations; for while Nature gave laws to these, and seemed to preside over their friendly society, she alone refused to comply with the dictates which, if possible, more nearly concerned her than the rest. A vigorous imagination, with a correct judgment, were the qualifications which all her sisters sought for in their votaries; while she, with a wayward obstinacy, addicted herself to the tasteless minions of fortune, and only required that her woers should be endowed with wealth. What wonder then that she has been put down from her station, and that her claim to be numbered among the liberal arts has not been universally acknowledged? But having now become sensible of her own depravity, reformed her errors, and placed herself under the direction of Nature; having lent her whole attention to the laws by which the family is governed; and taken the rules of her present and future conduct from

them ; her pretensions are no longer problematical : she Ver.  
 assumes a dignity that renders her worthy of the rank  
 to which she is restored ; has become a favourite in the  
 train of Nature, the common mistress of them all ; and  
 Painting, who has chiefly taken her under tuition, like  
 the preceptor of Scipio, declares, that while she imparts,  
 she derives instruction from her ready pupil.

Having thus, in the poetical mode of invocation,  
 generally intimated the qualifications that are equally  
 requisite in the ‘ pupil of his song’ as in the precepts  
 which teach his art, after a few episodical lines, upon 25  
 which, for the reason already assigned, I feel myself with  
 much regret precluded from expatiating, the Poet ad-  
 dressing himself to such of the youth of England, as are 50  
 enabled by the means of a sufficient fortune and an un-  
 vitiated taste of beauty to carry his lessons into execution, 54  
 slides into his subject with an assurance to so many  
 of them as are in pursuit of classical knowledge, that the  
 Art of Gardening was unknown to ancient Rome ; and 61  
 to such as visit the Continent, that it is not even now to  
 be learned in the detail by travel into modern Italy ; but 63  
 that foreign countries, and particularly that of Italy will,  
 notwithstanding, contribute natural beauties adapted to  
 improve or form the taste, and afford scenes well worthy of 71  
 our imitation. These, however, we are instructed, not in-  
 discriminately, or too ambitiously to aim at adopting, for 83  
 this important reason (which is the first general precept

Ver. laid down) that every effort to improve the scenery must correspond with the original nature of the place, or else most certainly prove abortive. (B)

88 But although objects which are inapplicable be thus proscribed, it does not therefore follow that we should despair of giving beauty to any spot, however seemingly defective; for the seeds of grace are universally disseminated; and though we cannot any where raise such as are foreign from the soil, and as it were exotic; yet such  
 102 as are indigenous will rise, and attain to their full matu-  
 107 rity and perfection under the cultivation of industry and taste. The very heath, for example, of all things apparently the least susceptible of a picturesque appearance, may be fertilized, and receive a cheerful aspect from the hand of toil; and Taste succeeding to this may carry the  
 111 work so much farther, as to bestow upon it even beauty and grace: but as the soil must be reclaimed, in order to its affording the materials of verdure and foliage to Taste, it is evident here that labour must go before; while  
 114 in the improvement of the dank vale, which affords another instance of their united powers, it is equally evident that Taste must take the lead, and precede, or at  
 123 least conduct the works of labour; for if not, the waters may be drawn off by the straightest, as being the shortest lines; and these again be so placed as to form angular intersections: whereas Taste, being at once possessed of her materials here, will prescribe that bed or channel

in which they may spread or run in the most beautiful Ver.  
manner; and hence it is that labour must, in this and  
similar cases, be the attendant instead of the harbinger  
of taste.

And here the valley thus improved is described; the 129  
beauties which Nature has contributed, and the corre-  
sponding charms which fancy has bestowed, are pecu-  
liarized: Time is supposed to have imparted maturity to  
its groves, and ripened all its beauties to the precise idea  
of the planter, and it is accordingly found altogether 150  
suited to contemplation, and the pleasures of seclusion 153  
and learned retirement: the cave, the rill, and the sha- 160  
dowy glade, adapt it to the Poet; its copious vegetation,  
and numerous insect inhabitants to the naturalist; while 164  
from the general disposition of its wood and water, and  
the accidents of light, which its various parts are formed  
to catch, the painter may derive improvement to his art.  
But it is not for the mere pleasure of dwelling on the  
lovely scene, that the Poet has thus minutely described  
its parts; he had another view, and has accordingly  
made his description the conveyance of an important 142  
censure on that indiscriminating zeal for prospect, which  
requires and is only delighted with the extent of unse-  
lected objects; and also an exemplification of this doc- 172  
trine, that a single scene, though not comprehending  
distances, may yet, by a judicious disposition of light and  
shadow, be put into possession of sufficient variety to



Ver. render a landscape, thus formed merely of a foreground,  
complete and perfect within itself.

179 If then it appears, that Fancy be of such power as thus  
to give charms to reluctant Nature, it follows that we  
should exert ourselves to improve this faculty; and to  
this end it is laid down as a maxim, that we should con-  
184 sult the laws by which painting is governed, and apply  
them to the sister art of Gardening. But of these, the  
first is to make a happy selection of objects for the pen-  
cil; and therefore, as greatness of parts, a receding gra-  
dation of hues and limiting outlines, and three distances,  
marked each with their respective characters, and bear-  
ing to each other a due proportion, are the objects of the  
193 painter's choice, so, if they can be attained, they are  
recommended to the Gardener, as the most desirable  
scenery for the exercise of his imagination and his art.

198 But of these three distances, supposing them possessed,  
the foreground is that part which is usually most at the  
disposal of a proprietor, and is consequently of the high-  
est importance. Wherever a man stands, the contiguous  
objects immediately before him form a foreground to the  
scene he is looking at; and by the foreground how  
much the general prospect is affected, there are few who  
delight in landscape that have not perceived. The ge-  
neral harmony of a scene results from a due proportion  
of its parts; but the greater distances are seldom within

the power of art: How then shall art, thus limited in Ver.  
the extent of her dominion, attempt to harmonize the  
whole scene? To this I answer, by a judicious adaption  
and disposition of the objects through which the eye 198  
beholds it. A path is a series of foregrounds; and to  
adapt each part of this to the various combinations of  
the distant objects, which always result from change of  
place or aspect, is the proper business of art. The effect  
of aspect on a scene, and the pleasure arising from an  
agreeable series of foregrounds, must be strongly felt by  
such as sail upon a fine river between beautiful banks:  
by this means we always, as it were, carry water with  
us, and render it a permanent ingredient in a continu-  
ally changing landscape. The means then prescribed  
for obtaining a similar permanency in a beautiful fore-  
ground are the direction of the path from which the  
general scenery is to be viewed;—a selection of well- 203  
adapted greens which shall contrast or mix their colour-  
ing into it;—such interruptions as may frequently give 205  
the charm of renewal to what we had been for a time  
deprived of;—the absolutely unintervening foliage of 207  
shrubbery beneath the eye;—and the shade of forest  
foliage above it; in which latter case, the best portions 209  
of the distant scene may be selected, and beheld from  
between the stems of the trees, which should be so  
situated as sometimes by affording lateral limits to reduce 211  
the view even to the strictest rules of composition;—and  
thus from the varieties of the foreground the general  
scene is also perpetually varied.

Ver. But, as there are many who are not sensible of the  
 216 beauty of this last feature in a foreground, and hence  
 might too hastily think of removing every forest tree in  
 front, as only an interruption to the scene, a caution is  
 suggested against such a practice : to prove its necessity,  
 the picturesque principle is resorted to, and exemplified  
 in the wooded foregrounds of Claude Lorrain and G.  
 Poussin ; and, as from these it would be impossible to  
 retrench even a single bough without an injury to the  
 general composition of the scene, so Nature is said to  
 suffer a similar injury, if her foregrounds are injudici-  
 ously deprived of their shade.—And as, again, the same  
 defective taste which would thus strip the foreground  
 225 where trees are an important feature, if possessed of  
 power to reach the distances, might there be induced to  
 plant in such a manner, as to give them no importance  
 whatever ; to counteract the uniform operation of aerial  
 perspective, by spotting the remote hills with little cir-  
 cumscribed clumps of dark foliage ; and to intersect by  
 angular fences what is formed to please only by the  
 singleness and majesty of the whole, the picturesque  
 principle, with which the general rules respecting fore-  
 grounds are here concluded, is made the means of com-  
 225 mencing a new subject, and is accordingly extended to  
 the distant scenes, and in this case exemplified in the  
 distances of Salvator Rosa ; for, as it would be impos-  
 sible, among the sublime objects, of which these, for the  
 most part, consist, without absolutely subverting the  
 dignity of his whole composition, to introduce the petty

contrasts resulting from deep shadowed, but narrowly <sup>Ver.</sup> limited plantations, so Nature is said to suffer a similar injury, if minute inclosures and formal foliage be allowed to disturb the awful tranquillity of her more majestic scenes. And the reason is obvious: the whole should be viewed together, and not in parts, which would, on account of their remote situation, very distinctly show their extremities to the eye; whereas in the foreground, neighbourhood entirely precludes the possibility of this effect.

The end and spirit of this precept then being to preserve proportion and harmony in the relative extent and colouring of those parts which enter into the composition of the distant scenery, it will clearly follow that no broad and sober contrasts are precluded by the prohibition. Of nearer objects, Nature defines with accuracy at once the outline and the shadow; but losing at a distance the intenseness of both, she exhibits them with blended and doubtful extremities; like twilight, she diminishes their opposition, and consequently exclaims against whatever should attempt to give it an unadapted strength: hence dark patches of ill-consorted wood, which rather seem to stick out from, than compose a part of, the scene, are her abhorrence. But it is not therefore a woody distance that is obnoxious either to her or her Poet; on the contrary, he inculcates this farther doctrine, that extensive clothing will be productive of the same uniform and

Ver. and simple greatness, as extent of any other character  
 whatsoever; but he ascertains its manner of application,  
 and instructs us, in these cases, to give a forest extent  
 of wood to distances even the extremest, and unite them  
 all by one uninterrupted length of foliage. But extent  
 and continuity are insisted on as indispensable here: for  
 as in the sublime ferocity of the scenes, last considered,  
 no little additions were admitted to interrupt the general  
 union; so where the character of the distance is forest  
 extent, for the same reason, little intermissions are  
 equally precluded. For as clumps and acute divisions  
 225 are there said to form a disproportionate contrast, so  
 here the very same defect would result from formal ex-  
 tremities, or circumscribed interruptions of wood, when  
 opposed to the general hue of the foliage. And here  
 253 the particular foliage, by which this great effect is best  
 obtained, is specified, and the oak, the elm, and the  
 chesnut are recommended to the planter; their hues are  
 sufficiently similar, and consequently that species of  
 variety alone, which is naturally incident to distances, is  
 aimed at. No fictitious protuberances are affected by  
 the means of paler verdure, nor, although the fir be per-  
 mitted, as a protection to the other trees, to afford a  
 temporary shade, are sudden, and therefore incongruous,  
 breaks sought after by the admission of darker greens;  
 the scene is left to obtain its variety from the effects of  
 light upon its surface; and these, let no man doubt, will  
 be sufficient for his purpose: for from the undulating

form of this the light and shadow will borrow not only Ver. extent and breadth, but soft and uncertain limits; and even that diversity of colour which is thus judiciously declined by art, will be amply repaid by the ordinary accidents resulting from the vicissitudes of weather, and the several seasons of the day.

Thus then we see the picturesque principle exemplified, and applied to the living scenery of Nature; but we are not, for this reason, to conceive that Nature is thus rendered subservient to an art over which she has not herself previously presided; for, though she may not in every portion of her works have exhibited the full perfection of beauty, yet in some she probably has; and though, wherever these lovely features occur, she may not, in every instance, have combined them to the greatest possible advantage; yet in some she has certainly displayed the charms of harmonious composition. Had she done this universally, or where she has done it, were it the talent of every man to observe and to generalize the principle on which she has proceeded, it would be unnecessary here to call in the aid of an imitative art; but when to those alone who have cultivated this, the skill to select and recombine the beauties of Nature, has been heretofore in a manner confined, to those it cannot be deemed unreasonable to refer the Gardener for instruction in the conduct of his own art. To grace and adorn the person of the great original herself is his pleasing

Ver. province; and surely he is the most likely to succeed in the discharge of this duty who most diligently investigates the principles on which she has already been imitated with the happiest success. From those then who, with the highest taste and most discriminating powers of selection, have transferred the beauties of nature to the canvas, we may, without derogation, submit to receive instruction, and learn ourselves to select, to digest, and to dispose our superiour materials, according to rules of composition that have been primarily dictated by herself.

300 It is not, therefore, by declining the study of Nature, that we are desired to aim at attaining that abstract idea of beauty to which we should for ever refer our designs and works, but by studying her through the medium of an art which, upon her own principles, has combined and improved her features; thus we are ascertained of success, and having once got possession of this general archetype, we see every species of littleness fly before it; every symptom of mechanism withdraws, and every trace of geometric order is obliterated; the angle declines into the waving curve, and parts, before acutely divided, now melt into each other with soft and easy transitions.

318 And such a transition the Poet may be said to have here exemplified in his own method. We had before been instructed how far the powers of fancy were able

to contend with the difficulties started by nature herself, Ver.  
 and to remove what appeared to be even deformity;  
 and now from a general rule, in which his abhorrence of  
 mechanick order is inculcated, we are carried to the  
 consideration of her equal powers to reform the absurdi-  
 ties introduced by antecedent art. The right lined Vista <sup>324</sup>  
 consequently, however sanctified by time or circum-  
 stance, is condemned to fall, while only such of its trees  
 as can survive removal, or such as, by concealment of <sup>328</sup>  
 their line, may plead for mercy, can hope to avert the <sup>336</sup>  
 stroke of the axe: from these few, however, a consider-  
 able effect is promised; and thus Art, in concurrence <sup>342</sup>  
 with Nature and acting only as her handmaid, is seen re-  
 storing to beauty scenes, which without that concur-  
 rence, she had herself previously deformed. (C)

We have now seen the picturesque principle establish-  
 ed, and we have traced its operations in the improvement  
 of defective nature, and the reformation of erroneous  
 art. We have seen it also more agreeably occupied in  
 selecting, heightening, and arranging the features of an  
 extensive landscape originally beautiful: we are now to  
 contemplate its effect upon the only species of rural view  
 that has not yet been brought under its direction: But  
 in this instance the precept is caution; and so very ten-  
 derly is Art permitted to touch the almost-finished work  
 of Nature, that its interference seems rather to be pro-  
 hibited than invited here. If indeed the scene fall short



Ver. of the Poet's description, and yet consist of parts that  
 are capable of being rendered conformable to it, it is  
 then the delightful office of Art to break new ground,  
 348 and for the first time to enter into the shadowy wild,  
 which bears no mark of ever having heretofore been in-  
 vaded by the hand of man: but here good taste will  
 hold sacred the deep solemnity, the silent and solitary  
 grandeur of its dark recesses; it will move on without  
 impressing a distinguishable vestige, and will only, as it  
 355 were, by stealth admit the human eye to the enjoyment  
 of their secluded beauties. If time indeed, giving to ob-  
 livion every unpleasing idea of their former designation,  
 has handed over to Nature, and she adopting them has  
 blended with her own offspring the antient seats of  
 360 tyranny and superstition, fancy has little more to do  
 than to enjoy the vale, whose woody sides, forming a  
 gloomy contrast to the rocks that glitter through them,  
 are over-hung by the majestick ruins of a castle; or in  
 the bottom of perhaps the same valley to contemplate  
 the more awful remains of an abbey standing on the  
 margin of a stream, by which the whole is watered: for  
 what indeed remains for her to do? If absolute neglect  
 has obscured the beauties of the scene, or rendered it,  
 perhaps, inaccessible, an access must be obtained, and  
 its beauties must be retrieved from a circumstance equi-  
 valent to annihilation: but this is the utmost that is  
 allowed to Art, and even in the performance of these  
 360 necessary offices, the principal attention must be paid to

the concealment and disguise of its interference. Hence Ver. the Poet, instead of imparting his instruction in this instance in the form of precept, has conveyed it by a description, and finding so little matter for maxim, instead of a lesson, has given us an archetype for our imitation.

From the contemplation of scenes like these, the Poet 386 now suddenly directs our observation to the geometrical absurdities of our antient gardens, and by thus artfully bringing them into immediate comparison, excites our just indignation against their unnatural and sumptuous puerilities: Our eye, but now in the enjoyment of Nature's loveliest freest forms, beholds, with disgust, the narrow restraint under which she has heretofore been oppressed. Where Art takes Nature for its archetype, Nature may herself improve under the conduct of that Art; but where on the contrary its source is in itself, or to be found rather in the principles than the visible performances of Nature, the works of Art like this, are never to be adopted in her domains. Painting presents a mirror to her form; and before this she may dress herself to the improvement of her charms: but what can Architecture contribute to heighten them? Having never borrowed from her, it has nothing to restore; and to be- 386 come a borrower herself, is a condescension beneath the dignity of her character; and consequently, however graceful, however majestic the works of this fine art

Ver. may rise, their beauties are their own, they are peculiar  
 — to themselves, and in no respect applicable to the forms  
 392 of Nature, who will therefore scorn to wear them. Bound-  
 less in her easy variety she disdains the restrictions of  
 the line and plummet, and, that substitute for the chizzel,  
 the sheers. Yet such were the antient implements of the  
 Gardener; by these the green arcade was formed, and  
 the dwarf vegetable trimmed into the mosaic pavement of  
 the parterre; by these its angular extremities and quick,  
 smooth slope were given to the terras: by these the  
 winding currents of water were compelled to stagnate  
 in straight canals; and, to use the language of an old  
 French writer, by these they were effectually prevented  
 from ever degenerating into rivers again.

The History of Gardening in England, from the days  
 of Elizabeth to our own time, finds here an easy intro-  
 duction, it is accordingly related, and hence we learn  
 the antiquity of that formal mode which has just been  
 condemned; we also learn that however obstinately it  
 held its ground, it had yet in every age come under the  
 censure of the wisest and most discerning men; that  
 498 yielding at last to their remonstrances and ridicule, it  
 began to give way about the commencement of the pre-  
 sent century; and, consequently, that at that period the  
 style which forms the subject of the Poem may be said  
 to have had its rise, although it has but very lately at-  
 536 tained to its perfection. To the works of those great

masters therefore who have brought it to this high state, as before to the works of the painter, we are now referred, with an earnest assurance, that by them we shall see the principles of the art exemplified, and from the study of their practice, be enabled to correct our taste and extend our fancy; that by exercising these, and giving an actual existence to whatever ideal forms and combinations we may have derived from all the sources that have now been laid open to us, we may bestow beauty upon even the ordinary features of natural scenery, and enter into the refined enjoyment of whatever Nature has, in this kind, created most lovely and complete. (D)

Having now brought the Commentary on the First Book to a conclusion, and throughout endeavoured to maintain and strengthen the great principle of rural beauty which has been prescribed by the Poet, I seem to hear an objection started to the justice of the doctrine, and to be asked in what manner the practice of the Gardener, who, for the most part, makes excessive neatness an object in his scenes, is to be reconciled with that species of beauty which consists in roughness of surface, and which appears to have been always aimed at by the Painter of Landscape.

To this, in the first place, I answer, that the objection does not affect the general composition, which is still

moulded according to the picturesque idea; and, secondly, that it cannot affect the distances, which are beyond the reach of any such subordinate consideration. How far then does it extend? Only to the foreground; and even in this, not to the design, but the pencilling; for, exclusive of the surface, the form may be preserved to the most fastidious expectations of the Painter. What then remains? not the drawing of the picture, for that is allowed to be correct, but just the manner of handling that small domestic portion which lies immediately beneath the eye. And, surely, when it comes to be considered, that in generalizing a principle, and applying it to a new subject, some variety must always result from the application; and this not from any mutability of the principle itself, but from the diversity of the objects with which it is combined, a variety so extremely trivial, can hardly be admitted as an objection to the introduction of the picturesque principle into the Art of Gardening; it falls before this self-evident proposition, that a rural scene in reality, and a rural scene upon canvas, are not precisely one and the same thing.

But that point, in which they differ here, is not itself without a guiding principle: Utility sets up her claim, and declares, that however concurrent the genuine beauty of Nature and Picture may be, the Garden Scene is hers, and must be rendered conformable to the purposes of human life; if to these every consonant charm

of painting be added, she is pleased; but by no means satisfied, if that which is convertible to use be given absolutely to wildness. The wildness of Nature, therefore, is irretrievably set aside, and consequently, it is only that kind of beauty which wears the stamp of human interference that can be cultivated here. Admit that desert Nature is best arrayed in the rough garb which painting chuses to imitate; yet in the English Garden, even in her very finest scenery, it is not desirable to preserve her in such a state of useless purity, that it shall appear as if no human footstep had even trod the ground. The presence of the mansion must for ever refute the supposition. Neatness must, consequently, supersede this savage air, for mere slovenly accommodation is, of all defects, the most disgusting; it is a mean between wildness and cultivation, which makes each destructive of the other, and, consequently, instead of being both, is really neither. To neatness, therefore, the surface of the foreground must be given: the claims of utility must be complied with, for the rudeness of Nature is precluded, and this alone remains; but even from this no small share of picturesque beauty may be made to arise, and smoothness itself, if thus the means and reasons of creating it appear, and that the shaven lawn be seen covered with the flocks which have been the instruments of its polish, will be found in a very extensive degree to conform to the principle originally prescribed. But I will now go even further, and aver, that it altogether conforms: The

Arts which imitate Nature are necessarily defective in one point, they cannot imitate her motion ; and hence they are driven to seek for some substitute that may be productive of the same effect. A roughness of surface is produced by quick contrasts of contiguous light and shade, which resulting in the appearance of frequent projection and retirement, the eye, by the rapid succession of these, is affected in exactly the same manner as if the parts were actually moving before it : But is this roughness, therefore, necessary in Nature herself ? It certainly is not ; and the reason is, that possessing a real, it would be superfluous to adopt the means by which only a fictitious motion is atchieved : the PRINCIPLES of Painting, therefore, are universally received ; and thus THE ENGLISH GARDEN, exempted from the necessity of using them, is found only not to accept of the artificial resources of Picture.

## C O M M E N T A R Y

ON THE

## S E C O N D B O O K.

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**T**HE Poet having, in the former Book, proposed every general principle relating to the Art of Gardening, it would have been allowable for him to have laid down his pen, and left his readers, in each particular instance, to have made the application as well as they could for themselves: but reflecting on the difficulty of carrying general theories into practice, he has himself condescended to take his pupil by the hand, and to teach him to apply his rules in every portion of his subject. He enters accordingly in the following Books into the detail, and instructs us in the means of executing every part of that great whole, with which we had been previously made acquainted; we have seen the picture; we have admired the composition; and even contemplated its greater features; but we are now to imitate it; we must, therefore, descend to subordinate considerations; we are no longer to consider the effect alone, but to inquire into the means by which it is produced; and to the specu-



Ver. lative part of gardening, henceforward learn to afford the assistance of manual operation.

The regard that is due to utility, and the necessity which subsists of rendering even beauty no more than an adjunct to this in the English Garden, has been already intimated : to some reflections on the happy effects of their union the present portion of the subject now naturally leads the mind ; and, accordingly, the second Book opens with an Address to an Art which thus benevolently turns magnificence from the cultivation of sumptuous trifles to the improvement of that which is beneficial to mankind. But here, while we attend to the precept conveyed in this apostrophe, we must be exceedingly on our guard not to misapply it, or imagine, that by converting beautiful objects to any other than their appropriate use, we are acting under its direction : the genuine spirit and tendency of the rule, is not to turn ornament to use ; it is the converse of this, and instructs us only to make utility the subject of ornament (E). But even this law is not without its liberal construction : in the great it must, perhaps, be literally interpreted ; yet, like poetry, gardening will frequently acquiesce in a fiction of utility, accept of an end for a use, and stamp the means which effect it, and the just adaption of the ornaments to the seeming purpose, with the name and characters of truth.

Under the authority of this general maxim then, it is Ver.  
obvious that the ancient formal style of gardening must 35  
necessarily fall: the gardener will endeavour to restore  
to Nature, whatever she has been so long deprived of:  
but as in the infancy of his art there is danger, that in  
destroying the right-lined disposition of his ground, he  
should, as was really the fact, run into the opposite ex- 47  
treme, a caution is suggested against all excessive and  
overstrained curvatures, and that easy line, which is a 51  
a mean between them, and which is spontaneously traced  
in the pathway of every being that moves under the un- 56  
affected direction of Nature, is described as the only  
legitimate source of beauty and genuine grace; of this  
soft and melting curve the application, we are told, must  
be universal; and that not only the pathway, and the 71  
outline of wood and water must be guided by it, but that  
the form of the surface of the ground itself must come  
under its direction.

But however gracefully it may flow, and however  
considered in itself, it may appear to be an absolute  
stranger to geometric rules, yet, as all parallelisms must 82  
thence derive their source, even this curve must not be  
matched with its own parallel: the greensward, there-  
fore, through which the pathway winds, must be varied  
in its breadth, and the neighbouring objects stand at  
that variety of distance that contrast may result; in like 86  
manner, the surface of the ground should be diversified 90

Ver. in its form; and in every instance, whether of hill,  
 ground-plan, or plantation, the idea of pairs must be  
 diligently avoided. Without this equality, the balance  
 92 may be sufficiently maintained, and the means of pre-  
 serving it are prescribed by Nature herself; it is not  
 by copying one feature from another, that she proceeds  
 to create a harmony of parts, she accomplishes this end  
 with more variety, nor finds it even necessary to place  
 her correspondencies at an equal distance from the  
 point of view; for to the remote mountain she fre-  
 quently opposes the neighbouring shade or rock, and  
 thus satisfies the expectations of the eye with difference  
 and uniformity at once. Hence then art should derive  
 its rule, and by a like opposition of dissimilar objects,  
 give poize and regularity to the general composition of  
 105 her works: the foreground is her proper district, here  
 therefore every object, whether of surface or plantation,  
 may be formed according to the taste of the proprietor;  
 their mutual adaption is, consequently, at his disposal,  
 and he is accordingly instructed in the manner of suit-  
 ing both their forms and hues, not only to each other,  
 but to the distant scenery which is beheld from among  
 them.

110 But in this, and every other operation of art, the par-  
 ticular character of the scene must be most attentively  
 considered, and cultivation assume a manner from the  
 subject with which it connected; thus the introduction

of soil, sufficient to maintain the vegetation of forest Ver.  
trees among the rocky clefts, may prove the means of 126  
removing the black and desolated air of a scene, whose  
proper character is majesty; and thus by a junction of  
wood and rock, and thence a happy contrast of gloom  
and glitter, dignity may be made to supersede a cold and  
forbidding aspect. The swelling hillock may be made 139  
to vary the fatiguing sameness of the flat, while this  
again, opposed by plantations, may result in an animated  
and cheerful landscape; and in like manner variety may  
be introduced into the very thicket, its uniform darkness 145  
may be chequered by clearing away the inferior wood,  
while the remaining shade will borrow dignity from the  
contrasted light that is thus admitted into it; the rivulet  
too should here be allowed to sparkle in the sun and 152  
assist the opposition; and thus we see not only the  
balance well adjusted, but the cure that may, by atten-  
tion to its genius, be applied to the defects of each par-  
ticular species of scenery.

But of all the purposes on which the character of a 159  
scene should be consulted, that is the most important  
which determines the mode of adapting ornament to use,  
without permitting it to encroach upon the limits by  
which it should be restricted; of these, as we have al-  
ready observed, it is the business of the gardener to  
make such a union, that neither may prove injurious to  
the other; ornament must not infringe the claims of  
utility, while at the same time, it is essential that utility

Ver. should not sordidly reject the ornament with which it is  
 — becomingly arrayed. But it is a truth, which experi-  
 161 ence will speedily evince, that nothing is more difficult  
 than to preserve the proper boundary of these ; pleasure  
 in its wantonness would seek to appropriate what should  
 be destined to more profitable purposes ; and there is  
 hardly to be found a profitable purpose to which ground  
 may be turned, that is not likely to invade the equitable  
 claims of pleasure ; the very sheep, in their browsing,  
 thus destroy the bloom and foliage which give beauty to  
 the pathway that steals round their pasture. Where then  
 is the remedy to be found ? in the fence, alone ; we  
 167 must ascertain their respective limits ; we must divide  
 and yet not disunite, and the expedient is as practicable  
 as it is necessary ; the fence, by winding freely, may for  
 ever be withdrawn from the eye, and the very foliage,  
 170 which it serves to protect, will, at every bend, conceal it  
 from the view. The form of the ground, in each parti-  
 cular instance, will instruct in some peculiar means of  
 178 disguising the division, but in all it should be drawn  
 with that bold line, that the trees and shrubbery which  
 adorn the pathway, should frequently project into, and  
 appear to blend themselves with the field ; while the  
 field, in like manner, should frequently be seen to form  
 recesses among these projected trees ; and here, when  
 the sheep go into these, they will seem to be uncon-  
 trolled, and the only evidence to the contrary will after-  
 wards be, that nothing has been destroyed.

Having thus far spoken of the fence, as the necessity Ver.  
 for its concealment, and the general form of its line are 245  
 concerned, the Poem now enters into a more practical  
 discussion of the various kinds that may be resorted to,  
 and the properest means to render them at once effec-  
 tual and invisible; and of these, the first that is recom-  
 mended to our choice, is that which is commonly  
 known by the name of the sunk fence; by this the 260  
 ground which is seen beyond it, provided its manner  
 of cultivation be any thing similar, appears so intimately  
 and continuously united with that on which we stand  
 ourselves, that it is almost always with surprise the divi-  
 sion is discovered; and hence, as expressive of that pas-  
 sion, it obtained, when first invented, the name of the  
 Ha! Ha! The mode of constructing this is specified,  
 and is as follows: Dig deep a trench, and to the base 265  
 of the side from which you look, and which must be  
 perpendicular and fronted with stone, the opposite  
 side must be gently sloped from the level of the soil;  
 the verdure of this slope must be preserved, and the  
 wall which sustains the neighbouring side, must be 272  
 covered on its top also with the green turf, a little raised  
 above the surface of the soil. This is the strongest  
 manner of constructing the sunk fence; but the greatest  
 strength is not in every instance necessary; it may, in-  
 deed, be requisite, in order to restrain the deer, but  
 cattle of a tamer kind, will be turned without it; the 284  
 perpendicularity and the stone front of the nearer bank

Ver. may, therefore, be here dispensed with, and in their  
 298 place a slope, and at midway down a row of thorns, de-  
 fended when young with pointed pales, may be substi-  
 tuted ; but this must be kept from surmounting the level  
 300 of the lawn, and its surface made always parallel to the  
 banks on which it grows.

305 But the form of the surface of the ground, the direc-  
 tion in which it is to run, and the nature of the incon-  
 venience to be excluded, must, in every particular case,  
 determine the sort of fence that should be made use of ;  
 306 that which we have already seen is best applied, when  
 its line runs directly across the eye, for in this instance  
 it becomes absolutely invisible ; but, on the contrary, it  
 308 becomes, of all deformities, itself the most disgusting, if  
 ascending the hill in front, or in any other manner of-  
 fering its end to the view, it exhibits only a gaping  
 interruption of the otherwise continuous surface : in  
 these cases, therefore, we must have recourse to new  
 expedients, and if sheep only are to be excluded from  
 the pathway, a sufficient defence against their inroads  
 may be obtained from net-work, or wire extended upon  
 319 common stakes ; three rows of stronger cordage stretched  
 between posts must be opposed to horses and oxen (F) ;  
 but as these are all liable to a thousand injuries and a  
 330 swift decay, and consequently will require a troublesome  
 336 degree of attention to keep them in repair, a more du-  
 rable substitute, but chiefly where the division is at some

little distance, is allowed of, and for this purpose a well Ver.  
 constructed paling of wood-work is recommended; but 350  
 as this again might very probably obtrude itself upon the  
 eye, while it is not possible that a fence of any kind can  
 be an ornament, we are instructed in the best means of  
 mitigating the necessary evil, and preventing its becom-  
 ing a defect.

The means then are briefly these; give to your paling 362  
 no tawdry glare, but as near as possible the colour of the  
 ground against which it is seen; for thus the eye shall  
 blend them together, and thus the ground in a manner  
 shall absorb the fence. And here the Poet, strongly  
 feeling, and wishing to inculcate, the necessity of this  
 precept, is exceedingly particular, and has left it only for  
 me to reduce his farther instructions on this head, to the  
 form of a recipe, in which, however, I am obliged to  
 omit the quantity of each ingredient, because it must  
 always depend upon the circumstances of the scenery in  
 which the paint is made use of; take then white-lead, 367  
 oker, blue-black, and a proportionably small quantity  
 of verdigrease, and making of these an oil paint, spread  
 it on the paling: the effect of this, if used with judge- 393  
 ment, will be found fully answerable to the most san-  
 guine expectations; the limits, as it were, retire from  
 the view, and use and beauty, which seemed to have  
 suffered a momentary divorce, are now indistinguishably  
 united again.



Ver. But there is a fence of which the concealment is not  
 407 equally necessary, a fence which genuine taste will even  
 rejoice to contemplate, for of genuine taste humanity is  
 the inseparable associate; on the children, therefore, of  
 the labouring peasants, we are previously desired to con-  
 fer the charge of superintending all our boundaries, and  
 guarding them from the invasions of herds and flocks;  
 in order to adapt them to this little stewardship, to change  
 430 their weeds of poverty for a more cleanly and comfort-  
 able attire; and arming the infant shepherds with the  
 proper implements of their picturesque office, to employ  
 and post them where they may be even conspicuously  
 seen.

460 From this benevolent precept, the Poet is naturally  
 led to consider the blessings and mental improvements  
 which attend upon the active occupations and the con-  
 templative retirement of the Gardener, and concludes  
 the book with an Episode in which they are eminently  
 illustrated. The scenery of the piece is well deserving  
 of our attentive observation, and the sentiment, however  
 poetically blazoned, stands firm upon the basis of historic  
 evidence.

Cicero has spoken of retirement in terms not very  
 different from those which introduce the tale of Abdalo-  
 nimus: "Quis enim hoc non dederit nobis, ut cum  
 "operâ nostrâ Patria sive non possit uti, sive nolit, ad

“ eam vitam revertamur, quam multi docti homines, for- Ver.  
 “ tasse non recte, sed tamen multi etiam reipublicæ præ- 460  
 “ ponendam putaverunt.” *Cic. Epist. lib. ix. epist. vi.*

But surely, the Poet has spoken more decisively like a patriot than even this great deliverer of his country himself; he has not preferred secession to the cause of the public; on the contrary, he has described it as a means of cultivating every talent for its service, and a sort of watch-tower from which to look out for the happy moment when they may be called into action; and in the conduct of his *Hero*, has presented it to us in the light of a school, in which the lessons of magnanimity and moderation are taught; and in which the well-disposed mind, abstracted from the pursuits of the world, will learn the duty of foregoing every private indulgence when the sacrifice may render us the fortunate instruments of restoring prosperity to our country, or extending the happiness of our species.

I do not exclusively challenge for Gardening the whole of those attributes which have been by a thousand writers ascribed to Agriculture at large, any more than I should exclusively claim to the most perfect knowledge of architectural ordonnance the entire eulogy that might be pronounced on the art of constructing habitations. Without the stately column or fretted roof the Savage might receive protection from the storm, and without the picturesque scene the nerves of labour might be

braced, and the markets supplied with the ordinary productions of the field: But on the other hand, without some portion of these refinements, are Agriculture and Architecture adapted to the exercise or reception of an English Gentleman? Certainly they are not; and yet as we are now instructed to dispose the Garden-scene, the occupations of the Farm are not excluded from it; the purposes of life are not only attended to, but consulted. Magnificence is no longer a tyrant, deriving his honours from the desolation of his territories; assuming a milder royalty, he now seeks his chief glory from their fertile state; he sets his polish upon accommodation, and it is henceforward utility that the King delighteth to honour. What, therefore, can now be said in the praise of Agriculture that may not be extended to Gardening? with this additional felicity, that being endowed with pleasures of its own, it counteracts the guilty temptations of fashionable vice, and renders the favourites of fortune partakers with the peasant in the blessings of innocence and health, without, at the same time, imposing upon them the necessity of sharing in his toil; enjoying at once the opportunities of salubrious exercise and contemplative leisure, unaffected by the little cares of the world, and unalienated by seeing their unamiable influence upon others, exempt, so far as human nature can be exempt, from the assaults of irremediable disappointment, contentment, which generates the love of man, and a sense of gratitude which, if not the thing itself, must necessarily

result in the love of God, take possession of their hearts, and assume the conduct of their virtuous lives; and hence, with the man who tills his own ground, the Gardener may be justly characterized as “one who inflicts no terror; who entertains no hostile disposition, but is an universal friend; whose hands, unstained with blood, are devoutly consecrated to that God who blesses his orchards, his vintage, his threshing-floor, and his plough; who vindicates his equality in an equal state, and strenuously opposes himself to the unconstitutional encroachments of aristocratic or monarchic power.” (G)

## C O M M E N T A R Y

ON THE

## T H I R D   B O O K .

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IN an apostrophe to his memory, the Poet now introduces his late lamented friend, Mr. Gray, as delivering his opinion on the subject of the present Poem, and declaring the preference which he gave to the works of Nature over every effort of Art. We are not, however, to conceive that he condemned her just exertions, because he prefers the more majestic sublimity of Nature; the contrary inference will follow from the precept with which he closes his animated counsel: for after he has showed the inferiority of Art's creative powers, he yet proceeds to regulate her conduct, and stating her proper office, advises her to conform to the canon of Nature, and only to curb every fantastic or capricious variation from her great example. (H)

The subject of the English Garden is not, like that of Thomson's Seasons, a mere descriptive eulogy on the luxuriances and beauties of Nature; it is preceptive,

and its end is to polish husbandry, and instruct us in the art of preserving those very beauties as far as may be reconcilable with the necessities of cultivation : these had, in the ancient mode of Gardening, been altogether superseded ; to teach the means, therefore, of recalling them is, surely, not setting up Art as a rival to Nature, it is making it subservient and contributory to her ends. If the rude magnificence of untouched Nature could consist with appropriation, it would be unnecessary to prescribe any rule ; but when we know that it cannot, and that heretofore a false idea of beauty has been entertained, shall we, therefore, depreciate the value of the lesson that conveys a better ? Or shall we, because the praise of Nature is higher than that of Art, declare that Art is not deserving of our attention ? The argument, that on this ground would militate against the English Garden, will be found to go a great deal farther, and extend to the subversion of every other imitative art as well as the Art of Gardening.

As we have all along considered the garden as a picture, so we are under the necessity of considering the unadorned and naked soil, as the painter's canvas, and, consequently, of looking on every means of ornament as the pencils and colours with which he is to work. But the canvas, with the coarse outlines of the scene, are supplied by Nature ; the former Book has corrected the drawing ; and now we come to give it all the variety of

Ver. tints that WOOD and WATER can afford; from these it  
 is true the landscape will derive its most important  
 charms of light and shadow, they are nevertheless re-  
 presented only in the light of superadded, though natu-  
 ral, ornaments, as not being essential to the existence of  
 the scene which, considered in this light, we see may  
 63 subsist without them. From the conduct of the path-  
 way, the fence, and the ground-plan, therefore, the  
 subject now changes first to the proper disposition of  
 WOOD; and the picturesque purposes of planting being  
 to conceal deformities and create ornament, the planter,  
 87 though it is declared unnecessary for him to be an adept  
 in all the science of the naturalist, with respect to the  
 96 classification of trees, is yet required skilfully to know  
 their several forms, their sizes, their colours, their man-  
 ner of growing, and other external characters, in order  
 that he may be always able to apply them respectively  
 to those purposes which they are best adapted to answer;  
 for his ignorance of these may lead him into bad mis-  
 108 takes; the pine, for instance, by its quick growth and  
 branching arms, seems well calculated to shut out the  
 low wall or fence from the view, yet a better acquaint-  
 ance with its habits, will show its unfitness; for as it  
 115 rises, it is found to shake off those very arms that might  
 serve to tempt the planter to use it. Box, therefore, and  
 holly, &c. are declared more eligible here, because they  
 are found to thicken below, and being planted not for  
 their own beauty, but to hide what is defective in other

objects, may be brought by the pruning knife to any Ver.  
 form that most effectually promotes this end. But above 118  
 all plants, the laurel has received a preference from the  
 Poet, as at once both answering this purpose, and being  
 in itself also positively beautiful. With these evergreens, 136  
 it is farther recommended to blend such indigenous  
 shrubs as are of early bloom, and though the utmost  
 nicety of selection be not attended to, yet we are pro- 150  
 mised a good general effect, one rule only being ob-  
 served, which is to range the darker foliage behind, as a 153  
 ground to fling forward that which has a brighter hue,  
 and, in Autumn, by their undecaying verdure, to give  
 brilliancy to the russet colour which is acquired by the  
 dying deciduous leaves; but this latter reason is not in- 161  
 sisted on, the Spring and Summer being deemed of more  
 important consideration: in order, however, to prevent 163  
 any breach in the skreen from the decay of leaves in  
 Winter, the greatest care must be taken to preserve the  
 line of evergreens entire.

Such is the remedy for low deformities, but to exclude 169  
 those of loftier stature, the intervention of forest trees,  
 so planted as not to overhang the underwood-shrubbery,  
 is required; and these may be so managed, as that while  
 they conceal a part, they may, at the same time, convert  
 the remainder of a structure even into an ornamental  
 object. When the barn-like choir and chancel of a  
 country church, for instance, are, by means of such a



Ver. skreen as this, shut out from the view, what can afford a more pleasing appearance than the tower which remains among the deep-shadowing foliage that has served to conceal them ?

185 It only now remains to consider planting in the light of ornament, and as it serves at once to harmonize, and give energy to that opposition of light and shade which results, perhaps, too tenderly from the easy surface of the soil. To the general maxims delivered in the first book upon this subject, the following more particular precepts are therefore now added, and taken together, the whole may be considered as a complete code of all the laws that relate to this subject.

195 Where the ground is so elevated, as to be itself an obstruction, the interposition of foliage cannot any farther abridge the view. Plant boldly, therefore, on such a brow, it is itself your object ; its beauty must arise from the richness of its vesture, and consequently the trees with which it is clothed must be closely planted  
200 together ; but on the plain beneath, they must be set single, or at wide intervals, and this without any seeming order or the visible interference of art.

210 Art must, however, in reality interfere, and that for many purposes ; the indiscriminating hand might else exclude an eligible distance by the interposition of trees,

which spread their tops and hang their impenetrable Ver.  
 branches, while, under her correction, the scene may be  
 preserved, and sufficient wood obtained by planting only  
 such as bear an airy foliage on light and lofty stems.

She must superintend the choice of trees destined to 219  
 form either clumps or an extensive shade, and for this  
 purpose select such only as are of similar character,  
 size, and colour, and also bear their leaves in the same  
 season.

She will hearken to the dictates of Nature, and care- 226  
 fully avoiding every transgression against her laws, will  
 adapt her plants only to such soils and situations as are  
 favourable to their culture.

Avoiding disproportion, she will forbear to plant the 232  
 lawn with low clumps of shrubbery, and, instead of in-  
 congruously attempting there to interpose their diminu-  
 tive stature for the sake of variety, will range them  
 contiguous to the pathway, where alone they can have  
 consequence, and where the eye may either dwell upon  
 their peculiar beauties, or altogether look beyond them.

She will teach us also to cultivate only the hardy in- 240  
 digenous race of trees, and to avoid the introduction of  
 exotics into the general scene, from which an ill-adapted  
 climate will soon snatch them, and so leave a blank.

Ver. This doctrine the Poet has enforced and exemplified in  
 252 a fictitious tale, which, however, he concludes with a  
 little abatement of his interdiction ; for he allows, that  
 if a taste for foreign plants must be gratified, it may be  
 indulged in some lateral seclusion from the general scene  
 sheltered from every rougher blast, and open only in  
 mild and favourable aspects.

301 The subject of planting being now concluded with a  
 very brief recapitulation, referring the particular instances  
 to good taste, and limiting every precept that would  
 313 attempt to regulate this to little more than prohibitory  
 caution, a subsequent evil is suggested, which is the  
 overgrowth of trees beyond the line they were intended  
 to describe, by means of which, when the effect is ob-  
 tained it is almost as soon lost ; but the planter whose  
 materials (in this differing from those of the painter)  
 will not retain their forms, is assured of his remedy in  
 attention ; and of being able to restore his outline by  
 introducing the axe and pruning knife to cut off the  
 luxuriance that has infringed those limits which his  
 picturesque idea had originally prescribed.

343 Care then, we perceive, is necessary to preserve what  
 taste had created, but this necessity, we are told, should  
 not yet discourage us from the pursuit of beauty : muta-  
 349 bility is a common lot, and the possibility of winter-tor-  
 rents might be equally well urged against the introduction

of water into a scene, or that it is liable to be dried away Ver.  
 by violent summer heats. And here the Poet, by means 350  
 of this exemplification, with great address changes his  
 theme from WOOD to WATER; he seems to pant be- 354  
 neath the fervours he has just described, and seeking a  
 refuge in the coolness of the element he has named,  
 assumes the latter as a subject which the heat he sus-  
 tains has rendered grateful to his mind.

The tendency which Nature has bestowed upon every 359  
 portion of her works, is vindicated to them as a species  
 of right, and that of fluidity being an active descent to  
 the lowest beds, the false principles upon which the  
 French, as described by Rapin, have endeavoured to  
 give an upward current to water by means of jet d'eaux,  
 with all their fantastic varieties, are censured as an in-  
 fringement of its equitable claims, while the dank bottom  
 ground, which is, on that account, unfavourable to ve- 379  
 getation, is declared to be the proper receptacle of this  
 element. Here then, if sufficiently copious, let it spread;  
 or, if more scantily supplied, and that the declivity of 381  
 the soil be such as to afford it a channel, let it rather  
 assume the form of a river; for to this, extent which is 383  
 in general beyond the reach of art, and yet the usual  
 character of natural lakes, is not required. But, be the  
 disposition what it may, we are desired in either case to  
 give to water an air of freedom in its outline, and a 385  
 bolder curve than that which has been already prescribed

Ver. for the pathway; the natural reason of which precept is, that the base of every little inequality in the ground jets into and turns it, and consequently, as it is unable to climb and surmount these, it must receive them as limits to its bed or channel. These, it is true, the torrent may cut or wear away, and hence the rocky and perpendicular bank has its original; but unless we have the means to supply a torrent speed to our artificial rivers, this species of margin is not a proper subject for our imitation.

398     Though the river has obtained a preference on account of the difficulty of giving sufficient greatness to the lake, the latter is not, however, proscribed, and the smallest extent of water is allowed of for the purpose of reflecting foliage and its accidents, and as a scene for waterfowl, &c. provided that it be in a sequestered situation, and well surrounded with forest-trees; but unless so bounded, these diminutive pools are declared to be absolutely inadmissible, nothing being more obnoxious to the eye than such palpable patches; for even the greatest rivers, if by their windings they are rendered seemingly discontinuous, and are caught only at broken intervals, are adjudged disgusting, being thus reduced to pools, unless indeed they afford a considerable stretch of water contiguous to the beholder's station, in which case the eye is carried on to their distances, and thus unites their divided parts without any other assistance.

Fill then the channel you give to the water, provided Ver.  
 the best effect of river is sought for, in order that it may 415  
 not be interrupted in its windings, but still demonstrate  
 its own continuance; but when this has in reality found  
 its determination, let the eye there encounter some  
 strong feature of wood or hill seemingly interposed; for  
 beyond this, if conducted with judgment, the imagina-  
 tion will certainly continue to prolong the stream. And 419  
 here a consideration of the necessity we lie under of pro-  
 curing abundant supplies of water for all these purposes,  
 leads the Poet to a direct prohibition of every attempt to  
 introduce this great natural ornament, unless we can  
 give it perfection from such supplies.

The flat lake and low-bedded river being thus dis- 423  
 missed, we now come to the rules which teach the  
 streams to descend with beauty from their higher sources  
 to the vallies underneath. But first, the false taste of  
 our ancestors, which conducted water thus circumstanced  
 down by steps, as it were, and for resting places, dis-  
 posed it in short canals, so ranged one beneath another  
 as in profile to afford the appearance of stairs, but of  
 length and continuance from some one favoured point of  
 view, is censured as deserving only our contempt, which 429  
 we ought to bestow still more liberally on that mode of  
 communication which conveys it from those above to  
 those below by flights of narrow stairs, whether it is  
 suffered at all times to trickle down, or hoarded, on.

Ver. account of its scarcity, to be devolved only at long and  
 438 arbitrary intervals; for the cascade, such as Nature has  
 exhibited, and such alone is recommended to our pre-  
 sent purpose, requires an abundant store of water, which  
 must first be provided ere imitation is attempted, and in-  
 450 stead of narrow steps requires a vast mound to fall over  
 462 (I), which, when raised, must have its front beautified  
 with rocks to shape the fall, and give it the majestic  
 rudeness of Nature. (K)

473 But as the possession of these more magnificent fea-  
 tures of landscape is beyond the limits of most men's  
 power, every attempt to atchieve them without a previous  
 certainty of success is discouraged, and we are desired to  
 acquiesce in the enjoyment of the little rivulet which  
 waters almost every scene; nay its improvement, if re-  
 quisite, is permitted; but this must be made to corres-  
 pond exactly with its character: it is not the office of  
 genuine art here to stagnate the lively stream into width  
 of lake, or by retarding its current to give it the form  
 490 of a slow-moving river; on the contrary, she will try  
 to fret, and so to increase its murmuring course as to  
 continue it still, only in a higher degree, what Nature  
 originally formed it.

On the secluded margin of one of these clear rivulets,  
 the Poet presenting himself as seated, there testifying  
 the fitness of such a situation to excite Fancy, and in a

short history of his own life giving an instance how con- Ver.  
 stantly he has been enamoured of this kind of aquatic  
 scenery, proceeds to confer a form and voice upon the  
 lovely stream that has so strongly captivated his imagi-  
 nation. That voice which he has thus bestowed, he ac-  
 cordingly makes her now raise, and concludes the book  
 with a recital of the Song, in which she aptly renders  
 the several qualities of her little current so many examples 531  
 of virtue to human Nature; her reflection of the ray she  
 receives from the sun reads to man a lesson of gratitude; 542  
 the nurture afforded to every little flower that embroiders 546  
 her banks, of extensive benevolence; she seeks the low-  
 liest vale for the path of her waters, and thence rebukes 549  
 the aspiring career of ambition; she calls on Sloth to 552  
 mark her brisk and unceasing current; and swelling to  
 an indignant torrent effectually to resist the tyranny of  
 Art, contemptuously derides the servile spirit; she then 555  
 commissions her Poet to report her counsels, and with a 559  
 warning voice to pronounce the vices she has reprobated  
 to be the cause of a nation's overthrow; but, if neglected,  
 himself to take the lesson and monopolize the profits he  
 is denied the means of communicating; and thus we  
 become almost persuaded that we find the assertion of  
 Shakespear's Duke in *As you like it*, even literally  
 verified, the little brook has instructed us in good;

“ And thus a life exempt from public haunt

“ Finds tongues in trees, books in the running streams,

“ Sermons in stones, and good in every thing.”



## C O M M E N T A R Y

ON THE

## F O U R T H B O O K.

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**S**IMPLICITY having already reformed the taste and corrected the false principles of Gardening; delineated the genuine curve of Nature; instructed us in the means of uniting Beauty with Use, and to this end concealed the necessary fence which forms their common limit; having promulgated the laws of Planting, and directed the proper course or bed for Water, is once more invoked to continue her assistance, while the Poet proceeds now to the consideration of artificial ornaments, that is, of such works of Architecture and Sculpture as may, without derogation from its dignity, be admitted into the Garden Scene.

But this is not the whole, for the fourth Book not only extends to artificial ornament, but is a kind of recapitulation of all that has gone before, which, exclusive of variety, the declared purpose of its Author, gives, even in point of strict propriety, a preference to the form of a

tale in which it is conceived; for were it preceptively Ver. written, it must have been restricted to its single subject, while the ordinary rules of composition allow a latitude and allot the business of exemplification and enforcement to the conclusion. The demesne of **ALCANDER** accordingly shews us not the example only from which we may, on the present portion of the subject, deduce for ourselves the rule, but in its general disposition demonstrates the great advantage of attending to every rule that has been already prescribed.

These, however, have been considered in their respective places, and therefore it only remains for me to discuss the principles of artificial ornament as they are set forth in the practice of **ALCANDER**.

All vestiges of former Art being obliterated, and 65  
 Nature restored to her original simplicity, the study of congruity in ornament is the first maxim that offers itself to our observation; and, therefore, if the principal structure or mansion be Gothic, the ornamental buildings should be made to agree with it. Even such necessary 80  
 structures as the offices of a farm, seldom ornamental in themselves, may at a proper distance, receive this character; by being masked with the fictitious ruins of a castle they will appear as if the reliques of an antient fortress had been turned to the purposes of husbandry, and thus, instead of offending the sight, be converted to

Ver. a correspondent and even a noble object; while a  
 80 mouldering abbey will better serve to conceal those  
 95 domestic structures that stand nearer to the view.

But not only the mutual agreement of buildings should be attended to, but their agreement with the circumstances of the scene in which they are introduced; the Castle, for instance, should derive the probability of having stood in former ages, from a situation in which it is probable that a former age would have placed it for the purposes of defence and strength; to this, therefore, an elevated situation is adapted, while a secluded recess and contiguity to running water, are not among the least essential characters of the Abbey, which should, now that time is supposed to have passed over it, stand backed with wood, and so sunk in shade as to give it an air of antique solemnity; for the great and venerable tree will be considered as a kind of witness to its age, while diligence should be used to bring forward the growth of ivy to assist in giving credit to the fiction.

Still farther, in every ornamental building of whatsoever kind, an agreement of its parts among themselves is to be maintained; in those already instanced it is requisite that every character of each should be preserved with the most scrupulous precision: omission of parts indeed may be justified by the supposition of ruin and decay: but what can palliate the absurdity of annexing

parts unknown to antiquity, and altogether foreign from Ver. the original purposes of such a structure.

These are the greatest possible artificial features, and as they must necessarily preclude all littleness, and consequently exceed the abilities of most improvers, they are converted to uses which must, undoubtedly, be somewhere complied with, and which will, therefore, defray at least some part of the charges. These also belong to the general scenery, and consequently admit of no dispensation either with respect to their greatness, or propriety in the manner of constructing them. The inference is obvious: where the execution, from its proper point of view, cannot amount to absolute deception, let the attempt be altogether relinquished: to fictitious buildings of this nature I have never yet heard an objection (and many an objection I have heard) that in substance extended farther than to such as are ill performed, and against such I am as ready to give my voice as the severest critic that has ever passed judgment upon them. (L)

But, apart from the general, there is also another 119 species of scenery to which alone the ornament may be referred without considering its relation to the whole: thus, if the valley be so sunk as to make no part of the prospect, the structure that adorns it may be adapted rather to this of which it will constitute an important

Ver. feature, than to the whole, of which, by the supposition, it makes no part at all; to this retired valley, therefore, if watered by a rapid stream, the grotto is well adapted, for the water trickling through its roof, will serve to keep it always cool for refreshment; but even here within itself, consistency of ornament must be attended to; and whether the scene in which it is placed be inland, or in view of the ocean, the building must only be incrusted with the productions that are natural to its situation and the soil.

173 The Flower-Garden also comes under this description; and therefore it is required, that it shall stand apart from the general scene, and be whatever it is within itself; some glade or sheltered seclusion is consequently its proper  
194 situation. The form and disposition of the flower-beds, though very irregular, must not appear broken into too many round and disjointed patches, but only seem to interrupt the green-sward walks, which, like the mazy berbage that in forest-scenes usually surround the underwood tufts of thorn, wind carelessly among them, and running from side to side through every part of the scene, frequently meet the gravel path that leads round the whole. The Flower-Garden being professedly a work of art, will no more desire to catch prospects beyond its own limits, than it seeks to be seen from without itself;  
306 the internal scenery, therefore, must consist of objects adapted to a neighbouring eye, present it with graceful, architectural forms, and call to mind, by their emblems,

the virtues and the arts that deserve our cultivation, or Ver.  
by their busts the names of men, who, by cultivating  
these, have deserved our grateful remembrance.

But among all the ornaments of the Flower-Garden, 212  
the conservatory is intitled to the pre-eminence; great,  
however, as it may be rendered, it is not yet requisite that  
its style should coincide with that of the mansion; it  
stands in a separate scene, there forms the principal  
feature, and, consequently, instead of receiving, should  
itself prescribe the mode to which every inferior orna-  
ment must be made to conform.

Separation from the general scene is likewise requisite 314  
for the recess where domestic fowl are reared; and as  
these are of two kinds, the land and the aquatic, their  
little demesne must consist of parts adapted to the  
habits of each; the lake studded with small islands, and  
surrounded with a grassy bank, will afford them every  
accommodation of this nature; and the narrowness of  
the space required will give propriety to the introduc-  
tion of some classic emblematical ornaments; while 325  
the whole animated plot may be enjoyed from a bower 334  
or rustic seat, so situated as at once to comprehend it all,  
and so circumstanced as to shut out the glare of the  
noontide sun by the means of climbing shrubbery, which  
will serve at the same time to invest the wall and con-  
ceal the masonry of which this bower must necessarily  
be constructed.

Ver. These three consistencies, for such they may be called  
 with the scene, with each other, and of each within itself,  
 being thus declared necessary to artificial ornament,  
 and exemplified in a Gothic scheme, the manner of  
 maintaining them, where the mansion or principal  
 structure is of Greek architecture, is now prescribed;  
 388 and here, instead of the majestic Ruin, the great orna-  
 ments of the general scene should rather consist of the  
 Temple, the Obelisk, the Column, or triumphal Arch.  
 The fragment, however, of the Gothic structure is not  
 to be considered as an inconsistency in England; it may  
 be the residue of an age that actually once existed; it  
 has consequently a kind of prescriptive right to its station,  
 and should not therefore be obliged to conform; while  
 400 the Greek buildings that are raised to suit the mansion,  
 must be made to appear its modern contemporaries, the  
 idea of a Greek ruin in England being a contradiction  
 both to history and experience.

403 Every argument to prove the necessity of maintaining  
 consistency, being in a manner exhausted, it remained  
 only for the Poet with ridicule to explode the hetero-  
 genous miscellanies of buildings which have been some-  
 times drawn together from remote parts of the earth,  
 and by a comic painting of the puerile chaos to render  
 it contemptible in our eyes.

639 As it seems to have been our Author's intention to  
 select from the variety of buildings, which have usually

found a place in our modern gardens, such as were Ver. capable of being introduced with the greatest congruity, and, when so introduced, capable of producing the best effect, he could not well overlook, that most common of them all, the Hermitage ; he has therefore allotted to it a situation retired and solitary ; but, as the melancholy circumstances of his tale led him to do, he has also made it a kind of monumental structure ; here as elsewhere, both by example and precept, conveying to us these important lessons, that such melancholy memorials should only be raised where a real interest in their object gives them propriety, and that where the circumstance recorded is near the heart, simplicity should be most studiously consulted, as emblems and unappropriated ornaments must necessarily prove contemptible to a mind which is too much in earnest to derive any pleasure from fiction. (M) 648

Although it has been my province to divide what the Poet has most closely interwoven ; to decompound, as it were, this part of the Poem, and separate the preceptive maxims from the tender narrative in which they are involved, I cannot, however, conclude without observing, that this book appears to me to be *unique* in its kind, as combining with infinite address in one natural whole, the dramatic, the descriptive, and the didactic *genera* of writing. To elucidate the last, is all that I have attempted ; and if what I have written tends, in any sort, to give the



Ver. less attentive kind of readers a clear conception of the general plan of the Poem, and of the connexion of its parts with each other, it will add considerably to the pleasure I have already enjoyed in this agreeable occupation.

665 Having now finished the whole of his subject, he concludes this book, as he had done the first, with an address to those of his countrymen, who have a relish for the politer arts; but as an interval of more than ten years had past between the times when the first and fourth books were written, that art, therefore, which in the former he exhorts them to practice for the embellishment of a then prosperous country, in the latter he recommends, merely for the purpose of amusement and  
672 self-consolation, at a period when the freedom and prosperity of that country lay oppressed beneath the weight of an immoral, a peculating, a sanguinary, and desolating system. History, when she transmits the records of the year 1781, will best convince posterity that this conclusion of the Poem had in it as much propriety when it was written, as they will feel that it has pathos when they peruse it.

It is reserved for me to conclude this Commentary in a happier hour: when a great and unexpected ministerial revolution gives us good reason to hope that the sword which was drawn to obliterate the rights of man-

kind, and cut up the securities of property, will soon hide its disappointed and guilty edge in its scabbard; that commerce will once more return with opulence to our shores: and that a just, a generous, and a liberal policy will scorn to restrain her benefits to a single district of a great and united empire. I have only to ask of Heaven to hasten the maturity of these blessings; to give them perpetuity! and, instead of suffering a barbarous and debilitating luxury to grow upon that prosperity of which it has thus afforded us a prospect, to invigorate our very amusements, and teach us with a manly and patriot pride, in the hours of peace and relaxation, to aim at lifting our country to that superiority in genuine Arts, which we have so lately begun to vindicate to her in just and honourable Arms.

THE END OF THE COMMENTARY.

*May* 30, 1782.



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**NOTES**  
**UPON THE**  
**POEM**  
**AND**  
**COMMENTARY.**

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Such of the following Notes as are marked with Numeral letters and the number of the Verse refer to the Poem, and were inserted by the Author in the former quarto Editions of its separate books. Those marked with the capital letters of the Alphabet and the Page refer to the Commentary.

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NOTES  
UPON  
BOOK THE FIRST  
AND ITS  
COMMENTARY.

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Note I. Verse 30.

*At this sad hour, my desolated soul.*

THIS Poem was begun in the year 1767, not long after the death of the amiable person here mentioned. See *Epitaph I. in this Volume.*

Note A. Page 316.

I think it proper to apprise my reader, that I use the general term GARDENING for that peculiar species of modern improvement which is the subject of the Poem, as it is distinguished from common horticulture and planting.—The Gardener in my sense, and in that of the Poet, bears the same relation to the Kitchen-gardener that the Painter does to the House-Painter.

## Note B. Page 324.

The few descriptions of gardens which occur in the writers of antiquity, cut off all hope of obtaining any classical aid to the art. In that of Alcinous, the charm consists not in the happy disposition of the little plot, for it was hedged in and contained only four acres, but in the supernatural eternity of its bloom and verdure, and the perpetual maturity of its fruits. The hanging gardens of Babylon, and of the Egyptian Thebes, like the pastures on the roof of Nero's golden palace, are rather to be considered as the caprices of architecture. The younger Cyrus, according to Xenophon's account of his occupations, had, perhaps, a more just idea of magnificence, yet still the orderly arrangement of his quincunxes, could never have consisted with the picturesque principle. If we turn to the primitive Romans, their Agrarian laws, however ill executed, directly operated against this art, and we find Cincinnatus called not from his garden, but his farm to assume the government of his country; and as to the Litemum of Scipio, that simplicity of life, which is so highly applauded by Seneca, and the very little care he took even to accommodate himself there, will give us reason to believe, that he rather neglected than over-polished his villa. Cicero was a professed admirer of *topiary works*, which exactly correspond with the green statuary, the espalier, and trellis-work of our own old gardens: "Trahitur

“ enim cupressus in picturas opere historiali, venatus  
 “ classesve, et imagines rerum tenui folio, brevique et  
 “ virente supervestiens.” *Plin. Nat. Hist. lib. vi.*  
*cap. 33.*

From the laboured description which the Younger Pliny has given us of his own Tuscan villa, we may at once infer the truth of our Poet's panegyric on the general appearance of Italy, and also that gardening had not improved at Rome beneath the imperial yoke. Nothing can exceed the beauty of that scenery which this elegant writer has laid before us: “ A theatre, such as  
 “ Nature alone could construct, is presented to our eye:  
 “ a valley is extended at the foot of the surrounding  
 “ Appenine, whose loftiest summits are crowned with  
 “ old patrician forests, while the descending sides are  
 “ covered with foliage, there only interrupted where  
 “ some bold projections lift their heads above it: vine-  
 “ yards extended on every side occupy the base of the  
 “ mountain, while the valley beneath looks cheerful  
 “ with meadows and corn-fields, and all the varieties of  
 “ inclosure and cultivation; the whole is fertilized by  
 “ eternal rills which are yet no where collected in a  
 “ stagnant lake, but hurry down the declivities of the  
 “ ground into the Tiber, which, forming here a vast  
 “ navigable stream, and reflecting the whole landscape  
 “ from his smooth surface, divides the valley in the  
 “ midst.” Such are the glowing scenes of Italy, and



how well adapted they are to the canvas, Pliny himself has perceived; for he declares, “the view before him “to resemble a picture beautifully composed rather than “a work of Nature accidentally delivered.”

And now having contemplated the prospect, it is time to turn our eye to the proprietor, and the character of that foreground from which he was pleased to enjoy it. Behold him then hemmed in by a narrow inclosure, surrounded with a graduated mound, tracing, perhaps, his own or his gardener’s name scribbled in some sort of herbage upon a formal parterre, or ranging in allies formed of boxen pyramids and unshorn apple-trees placed alternately, in order, as he declares himself, “happily to blend rusticity with the works of more “polished art;” nay, it is even possible that seated now upon a perforated bench, so contrived as, under the pressure of his weight, to fling up innumerable jets d’eau, he then takes in the view of this “vast Theatre of Nature” from between the figures of fantastic monsters, or the jaws of wild beasts, into which he has shorn a row of box-trees at the foot of an even sloping terras. In brief, in a foreground probably designed, but certainly applauded by the Younger Pliny, no vestige of Nature is suffered to remain; and if, from a man of his erudition and accomplishments, we receive no better a model for our imitation, I believe we may safely infer, that however lovely Italian scenery in general may be to the eye,

the search of classic aid to the Art of Gardening must prove absolutely fruitless : By one of his contemporaries, it is true, the defective taste of his age was observed, but the censure affords an argument of its universality, while it exempts only the sensible individual who pronounced it.

In vallem Egeriæ descendimus et speluncas  
 Dissimileis veris. Quanto præstantius esset  
 Numen aquæ, viridi si margine clauderet undas  
 Herba, nec ingenuum violarent marmora tophum.

*Juven. Sat. III. ver. 17.*

The villa of the Gordiani, described by J. Capitolinus, is in much the same style, nor does that of Dioclesian seem to have possessed any advantage over it.

I should not name the fictitious garden of Psyche, as delineated in very general terms by Apuleius, but for the purpose of introducing one of a much later date, described by his commentator Beroaldus, and so illustrating the equally defective taste of modern “superstitious Italy.” “Behold then the fairest and most magnificent seat subsisting in the territories of Bologna in the year 1510; and we find its beauties to consist of a marble fountain, in a green inclosure, throwing the water up by the means of siphons; of a fish-pond annexed to this; and of a long and right-

“ lined canal between two parallel stone-walls, while  
 “ another stone-wall of ten feet high, but broad enough  
 “ at top to admit of two persons walking abreast on it,  
 “ completely excludes the view of the country and of  
 “ the natural river from which this canal is supplied  
 “ with water.” In the year 1550, we find a Cardinal à  
 Valle, at Rome, employed in erecting a hanging garden  
 on the columns of his palace. Strada, who was himself  
 a Roman, gives us his own idea of a perfect garden in  
 the middle of the last century, and like that of Pliny, it  
 principally consists of jet d’eau and green statuary : and  
 Bishop Burnet, in the year 1685, describes the Borro-  
 mean garden in the Lago Maggiore, as “ rising from the  
 “ lake by five rows of terrasses on the three sides of the  
 “ garden that are watered by the lake ; the stairs are  
 “ noble, the walls are all covered with oranges and  
 “ citrons, and a more beautiful spot of a garden cannot  
 “ be seen.” He afterwards informs us, in more general  
 terms, that “ the gardens of Italy are made at great cost :  
 “ the statues and fountains are very rich and noble ; the  
 “ grounds are well laid out, and the walks are long and  
 “ even, but they are so high scented by plots made  
 “ with box, that there is no pleasure to walk in them ;  
 “ they also lay their walks between hedges that one is  
 “ much confined in them. In many of their gardens  
 “ there goes a course of water round the walls, about a  
 “ foot from the ground, in a channel of stone that goes  
 “ round the side of the wall.” So here is an Italian

garden, walled round, watered by fountains, and an elevated stone channel at its extremities, and divided into box-plots by long, even, high-hedged walks; “but they have no gravel,” he says, “to make these firm and beautiful like those we have in England;” and hence, perhaps, it is that the judgment of Addison, who visited that country but a little after, may be accounted for; “for,” he says, “their gardens then contained a large extent of ground covered over with an agreeable mixture of garden and forest, which represent every where an artificial rudeness, much more charming than that neatness and elegance which we meet with in our own country;” but he bestows the same encomium upon the gardens of France, where there is but little reason to believe that he really found a better style than that which prevailed at home; he desired to reform a mode that disgusted him; he saw the fault and wished to avoid it, but had never formed an idea of the perfection to which it was possible the art could be carried; whatever differed from the obnoxious track he had been used to afforded him satisfaction, and this he probably exaggerated to himself, and was glad to make use of as an example to his doctrines. It is not very likely, that Mr. Addison, if he were still living, would now bestow the exalted title of heroic poets upon the designers of Kensington Gardens: but the fact is, we were in his time the apes of France in this as well as in every other frippery device of fashion, and Le Nautre alike presided

over the taste of gardening in both countries. Rapin is childish in his precepts; Stevens, a century before him, delivered nearly the same in prose; and I cannot find that France, at any previous time, afforded an instance of a practice better than they have prescribed. The genius of Petrarch, I grant, is in some respect visible at Vaucluse: but who has dared to tread in his footsteps? But I do not design minutely to trace the history of French gardening. It is my purpose only to confirm the assertion of the Poet, who vindicates the art he sings to his own country; and this, I think, I have sufficiently done, by inquiring into its state upon the Continent, and chiefly in Italy, down to the time about which it seems to have had its commencement in England: but though admired by some of their travellers, who have visited this country, it is not yet adopted by them, and consequently no modern claim can come into competition with ours. Mr. Gray has asserted our originality in this particular, and Algarotti has acknowledged it.\* The art is, therefore, our own, and consequently the Poem, which undertakes to impart its principles, has a right to entitle itself the **ENGLISH GARDEN**.

Note C. Page 333.

In a postscript, which the Author annexed to the quarto edition of the fourth book of this Poem, in which

\* See *Memoirs of the Life and Writings of Mr. Gray*, Let. 8. Sect. 5.

he gave a general analysis of the whole, and answered certain objections which had been made to particular passages in it, he thus vindicates himself for having prescribed the demolition of vistas, which had been defended as having in themselves a considerable share of intrinsic beauty: "I am," says he, "myself far from denying this, I only assert that their beauty is not picturesque beauty; and, therefore, that it is to be rejected by those who follow picturesque principles. It is architectural beauty, and accords only with architectural works. Where the artist follows those principles, vistas are certainly admissible; and the French, who have so long followed them, have, therefore, not improperly (though one cannot help smiling at the title) given us, in their Dictionary of Sciences, an article of *Architecture du Jardinage*. But did Gaspar Poussin, or Claude Lorrain, ever copy those beauties on their canvas? Or would they have produced a picturesque effect by their means if they had? I think this single consideration will induce every person of common taste to allow that these two principles oppose one another; and that whenever they appear together, they offend the eye of the beholder by their heterogeneous beauty. If, therefore, vistas are ever to be admitted, or rather to be retained, it is only where they form an approach to some superb mansion, so situated that the principal prospect and ground allotted to picturesque improvement lie entirely on the other

“ side ; so much so, that the two different modes of  
 “ planting can never appear together from any given  
 “ point of view, and this is the utmost that I can con-  
 “ cede on the subject.”

Note II. Verse 395.

*With stone. Egregious madness ; yet pursu'd*

Although this seems to be the principle upon which this false taste was founded, yet the error was detected by one of our first writers upon architecture. I shall transcribe the passage, which is the more remarkable, as it came from the quaint pen of Sir Henry Wotton : “ I  
 “ must note,” says he, “ a certain contrariety between  
 “ building and gardening : for as fabrics should be re-  
 “ gular, so gardens should be irregular, or at least cast  
 “ into a very wild regularity. To exemplify my conceit,  
 “ I have seen a garden, for the manner perchance in-  
 “ comparable, into which the first access was a high  
 “ walk like a terras, from whence might be taken a  
 “ general view of the whole plot below, but rather in a  
 “ delightful confusion, than with any plain distinction  
 “ of the pieces. From this the beholder descending  
 “ many steps, was afterwards conveyed again by several  
 “ mountings and valings, to various entertainments of his  
 “ scent and sight : which I shall not need to describe,  
 “ for that were poetical ; let me only note this, that  
 “ every one of these diversities, was as if he had been  
 “ magically transported into a new garden.” Were the

terras and the steps omitted, this description would seem to be almost entirely conformable to our present ideas of ornamental planting. The passage which follows is not less worthy of our notice. “ But though other countries have more benefit of the sun than we, and thereby more properly tied to contemplate this delight; yet have I seen in our own a delicate and diligent curiosity surely without parallel among foreign nations, namely in the garden of Sir Henry Fanshaw, at his seat in Ware-park; where, I well remember, he did so precisely examine the tinctures and seasons of his flowers, that in their settings, the inwardest of which that were to come up at the same time, should be always a little darker, than the utmost, and so serve them for a kind of gentle shadow.” This seems to be the very same species of improvement which Mr. Kent valued himself for inventing, in later times, and of executing, not indeed with flowers, but with flowering shrubs and evergreens, in his more finished pieces of scenery. The method of producing which effect, has been described with great precision and judgment by a late ingenious writer. (See *Observations on modern Gardening*, sect. 14th, 15th, and 16th.) It may, however, be doubted whether Sir Henry Fanshaw’s garden were not too *delicate* and *diligent* a curiosity, since its panegyrist concludes the whole with telling us, that it was “ like a piece not of Nature, but of Art.” See *Reliquiæ Wottonianæ*, page 64, edit. 4th.



## Note III. Verse 412.

*The wilds of taste. Yes, sagest VERULAM,*

Lord Bacon, in the 46th of his essays, describes what he calls *the platform of a princely garden*. If the reader compare this description with that which Sir William Temple has given in his essay, intituled, *The Gardens of Epicurus*, written in a subsequent age; he will find the superiority of the former very apparent; for though both of them are much obscured by the false taste of the times in which they were written, yet the vigor of Lord Bacon's genius breaks frequently through the cloud, and gives us a very clear display of what the real merit of Gardening would be when its true principles were ascertained. For instance, out of thirty acres which he allots for the whole of his Pleasure-ground, he selects the first four for a lawn, without any intervention of plot or parterre, "because," says he, "nothing is more pleasant to the eye than green grass kept finely shorn." And "as  
 " for the making of knots of figures, with diverse coloured  
 " earths, that they may lie under the windows of the  
 " house, on that side which the garden stands, they be  
 " but toys, you may see as good sights many times in  
 " tarts." Sir William Temple, on the contrary, tells us, that in the garden at Moor-park, which was his model of perfection, the first inlet to the whole was a very broad gravel walk garnished with a row of laurels which looked like orange-trees, and was terminated at each

end by a summer-house. The parterre or principal garden, which makes the second part in each of their descriptions, it must be owned, is equally devoid of simplicity in them both. "The garden," says his Lordship, "is best to be square, encompassed with a stately arched-hedge, the arches to be upon carpenters work, over every arch a little belly enough to receive a cage of birds, and, over every space, between the arches, some other little figure with broad plates of round-coloured glass, gilt for the sun to play upon." It would have been difficult for Sir William to make his more fantastic; he has, however, not made it more natural. The third part, which Lord Bacon calls the Heath, and the other the Wilderness, is that in which the genius of Lord Bacon is most visible; "for this," says he, "I wish to be framed as much as may be to a natural wildness." And accordingly he gives us a description of it in the most agreeable and picturesque terms, insomuch that it seems less the work of his own fancy than a delineation of that ornamental scenery which had no existence till about a century after it was written. Such, when he descended to matters of mere elegance (for when we speak of Lord Bacon, to treat of these was to descend) were the amazing powers of his universal genius.

Note IV. Verse 447.

*All that the Nymph forgot, or left forlorn.*

See Spenser's *Fairy Queen*, Book 4th, Canto the 10th; the passage immediately alluded to is in the 21st stanza.

For all that Nature, by her mother wit,  
Could frame in earth and form of substance base  
Was there; and all that Nature did omit,  
Art (playing Nature's second part) supplied it.

Note V. Verse 453.

*That work, "where not nice Art in curious knots,*

See Milton's inimitable description of the garden of Eden. *Paradise Lost*, Book 4th, part of which is here inserted.

Note VI. Verse 481.

*Thou reach the Orchard, where the sparing turf*

The French at present seem to be equally sparing of this natural clothing of the earth, although they have done us the honour to adopt our Bowling-greens, and to improve upon them. This appears from the following article of the *Encyclopedie* translated verbatim.

“ Boulingrin, N. S. In gardening is a species of Par-  
“ terre composed of pieces of divided turf with borders  
“ sloping (*en glaxis*) and evergreens at the corners and  
“ other parts of it. It is mowed four times a year to make  
“ the turf finer. The invention of this kind of parterre

“ comes from England, as also its name, which is derived  
 “ from *Boule*, round, and *Grin*, fine grass or turf.  
 “ Boulingrins are either simple or compound; the  
 “ simple are all turf without ornament; the compound  
 “ are cut into compartments of turf, embroidered with  
 “ knots, mixt with little paths, borders of flowers, yew-  
 “ trees, and flowering shrubs. Sand also of different  
 “ colours contributes greatly to their value.”

Note VII. Verse 489.

*Surpassing rule and order.*” TEMPLE, *yes,*

The passage here alluded to is as follows: “ What I  
 “ have said of the best forms of Gardens is meant only  
 “ of such as are in some sort regular; *for there may be*  
 “ *other forms wholly irregular, that may, for ought I*  
 “ *know, have more beauty than any of the other;* but  
 “ they must owe it to some extraordinary dispositions of  
 “ Nature in the seat, or some great race of fancy and  
 “ judgment in the contrivance, which may reduce many  
 “ disagreeing parts into some figure which shall yet upon  
 “ the whole be very agreeable. Something of this I have  
 “ seen in some places, and heard more of it from others  
 “ who have lived much among the Chineses.” Sir  
 William then gives us a kind of general account of the  
 Chinese taste; and of their *Sharawadgi*, and concludes  
 thus: “ But I should hardly advise any of these attempts  
 “ in the figure of gardens among us; they are adventures  
 “ of too hardy atchievement for any common hands; and

“ though there may be more honour if they succeed well,  
 “ yet there is more dishonour if they fail, and it is  
 “ twenty to one they will, whereas in regular figures it  
 “ is hard to make any great and remarkable faults.” See  
 “ *Temple's Miscellanies*, vol. I. p. 186. fol. edit.

Note VIII. Verse 493.

*Led to the fair atchievement.* ADDISON,

I had before called Bacon the prophet, and Milton the herald of true taste in gardening. The former, because in developing the constituent properties of a princely garden, he had largely expatiated upon that adorned natural wildness which we now deem the essence of the art. The latter, on account of his having made this natural wildness the leading idea in his exquisite description of Paradise. I here call Addison, Pope, Kent, &c. the Champions of this true taste, because they absolutely brought it into execution. The beginning therefore of an actual reformation may be fixed at the time when the Spectator first appeared. The reader will find an excellent chapter upon this subject in the Pleasures of Imagination, published in No. 414 of the Spectator; and also another paper written by the same hand, No. 447; but perhaps nothing went further towards destroying the absurd taste of clipped evergreens than the fine ridicule upon them in the 173d Guardian, written by Mr. Pope.

Note IX. Verse 503.

*Sweeps thro' each kindred vista; groves to groves*

See Mr. Pope's Epistle on False Taste, inscribed to the Earl of Burlington. Few readers, I suppose, need be informed, that this line alludes to the following couplet :

Grove nods to grove, each alley has a brother,  
And half the platform just reflects the other.

Note X. Verse 511.

*The pencil's power : but, fir'd by higher forms*

It is said that Mr. Kent frequently declared he caught his taste in gardening from reading the picturesque descriptions of Spenser. However this may be, the designs which he made for the works of that poet are an incontestible proof, that they had no effect upon his executive powers as a painter.

Note XI. Verse 522.

*The simple farm eclips'd the garden's pride,*

Mr. Southcote was the introducer, or rather the inventor of the *ferme ornè*; for it may be presumed, that nothing more than the term is of French extraction.

Note D. Page 337.

Camden, who lived in the days of Spenser, has described Guy-Cliffe, in Warwickshire, in a manner that looks as if either the taste of his time was infinitely

superior to that of the period immediately succeeding it; or at least as if the proprietor were himself an instance of a genius very far transcending all his contemporaries. “Guy-Cliffe, nunc Thomæ de Bello Fago habitatio, et  
 “quæ ipsa sedes est amœnitatis: Nemusculum ibi est  
 “opacum, fontes limpidi et gemmei, antra muscosa,  
 “prata semper verna, rivi levis et susurrans per saxa  
 “discursus, nec non solitudo, et quies musis amicis-  
 “sima.” Here is nothing fantastic and unnatural, which is the more extraordinary, as Guy-Cliffe is situated in the same county with Kennelworth, at that time the principal seat of every quaint and sumptuous departure from nature and simplicity.

Theobalds, which Hentzner has described, was laid out by Lord Burleigh, who seems to have anticipated all the absurdities we usually ascribe to a taste supposed to have been long after imported from Holland: a ditch full of water, labyrinths made with a great deal of labour, and a jet d’eau with its marble bason, constitute the principal ornaments of the place; and in a still earlier period, we learn that the beauty of Nonsuch, the delight of Henry VIII. consisted chiefly in groves ornamented with trellis work, and cabinets of verdure. “At Ulskelf, “near Towton,” says Leland, “there lives a prebendary “of York, possessed of a goodly orchard with walks “*opere topiario* ;” and, in the year 1538, the same author describes “the gardens within, and the orchards “without the mote” of Wresehill-Castle, the ancient

seat of the Perceys, to have “ been exceedingly fair.  
“ And in the orchards were mounts *opere topiario*,  
“ writhen about with degrees like turnings of cokil-shells  
“ to cum to the top without pain.”

This is all that I will add to Mr. Mason’s notes on this part of the subject ; I had intended to have gone a great deal farther, and to have traced the history of modern gardening in England, as far as diligence would have supplied me with materials ; but the subject has had the better fortune to come under the agreeable, the lively, and at the same time the accurate pen of Mr. Walpole. With all my readers I rejoice that I have been thus prevented.



NOTES  
UPON  
BOOK THE SECOND  
AND ITS  
COMMENTARY.

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Note XII. Verse 10.

*Which fills the fields with plenty. Hail that Art*  
THIS simile, founded on the vulgar error concerning the harvest moon, however false in philosophy, may, it is hoped, be admitted in poetry.

Note E. Page 342.

This rule is founded in nature and reason, and its universal application has the sanction of antiquity to support it. Quintilian, though certainly defective in his taste for landscape, and even an admirer of *topiary* works, has yet in the following passage very well apologized for that regularity which he in general applauds, by making utility and profit, in these particular instances,

reasons for it. “ Nullusne *fructiferis* adhibendus est  
 “ decor? quis neget? nam et in ordinem certaue  
 “ intervalla redigam meas arbores: quid enim illo quin-  
 “ cunxe speciosius, qui, in quamcunque partem spec-  
 “ taveris, rectus est? sed protinus in id quoque prodest  
 “ ut terræ succum æqualiter trahant. Decentior equus  
 “ cujus adstricta sunt ilia, si idem velocior. Pulcher  
 “ aspectu sit athleta cujus lacertos exercitatio expressit,  
 “ idem certamini paratior. Nunquam vero species ab  
 “ utilitate dividitur.” *Quint. Inst. Lib. VIII. cap. iii.*  
*de Ornatu.*

Cicero has elegantly observed, “ Nullam partem cor-  
 “ poris (vel hominis vel ceterarum animantium) sine  
 “ aliqua necessitate affictam, totamque formam quasi  
 “ perfectam reperietis arte non casu. Quid in arboribus,  
 “ in quibus non truncus, non rami, non folia sunt denique,  
 “ nisi ad suam retinendam, conservandamque naturam?  
 “ nusquam tamen est ulla pars nisi venusta. Linquamus  
 “ naturam, artesque videamus; quid tam in navigio ne-  
 “ cessarium quam latera, quam carinæ, quam mali, quam  
 “ vela? quæ tamen hanc habent in specie venustatem,  
 “ ut non solum salutis sed etiam voluptatis causâ inventa  
 “ esse videantur. Columnæ et templa et porticus susti-  
 “ nent, tamen habent non plus utilitatis quam dignitatis.  
 “ Capitolii fastigium illud et cæterarum ædium non  
 “ venustas sed necessitas ipsa fabricata est. Nam cum  
 “ esset habita ratio quemadmodum ex utraque parte  
 “ tecti aqua delaberetur, utilitatem templi, fastigii dig-

“ nitas consequuta est, ut etiam, si in cœlo capitolium  
 “ statueretur ubi imber esse non posset, nullam sine  
 “ fastigio dignitatem habiturum fuisse videatur. Hoc in  
 “ omnibus item partibus orationis evenit ut utilitatem ac  
 “ prope necessitatem suavitas quædam et lepos consequatur.” *Ciceron. de Oratore, Lib. III.*

I might multiply quotations without end, but will close with a passage from the practical architect Vitruvius, which may serve as a comment on the above beautiful observation of Cicero : “ Quod non potest in veritate  
 “ fieri, id non putaverent (antiqui) in imaginibus factum,  
 “ posse etiam rationem habere, omnia enim certâ proprietate, et a veris naturæ deductis moribus, traduxerunt in operum perfectiones ; et ea probaverunt, quorum explicationes in disputationibus rationem possunt  
 “ habere veritatis.” *Vitruv. Lib. IV. cap. ii. de Ornamentis Columnarum.*

Note XIII. Verse 119.

*Than does this sylvan despot. Yet to those*

See Book the First, line 84. See also Mr. Pope's Epistle to Lord Burlington, line 57,

Consult the genius of the place in all, &c.

A fundamental rule, which is here further enlarged upon from line 126.

Note XIV. Verse 222.

*(And that the tyrant's plea) to work your harm.*

Alluding to Milton.

So spake the Fiend, and with *necessity*,  
The tyrant's plea, excus'd his dev'lish deeds.

PARADISE LOST, Book IV. line 393.

Note XV. Verse 327.

*Is curb'd by mimic snares ; the slenderest twine*

Linnæus makes this a characteristical property of the fallow deer ; his words are, *arcetur filo horizontali*. (See Syst. Nat. Art. *Dama*.) I have sometimes seen feathers tied to this line for greater security, though perhaps unnecessarily. They seem, however, to have been in use in Virgil's time, from the following passage in the Georgics :

Stant circumfusa pruinis

Corpora magna boum : confertoque agmine cervi  
Torpent mole novâ, et summis vix cornibus extant.  
Hos non emissis canibus, non cassibus ullis,  
*Puniceæve agitant pavidos formidine pennæ :*  
Sed frustra oppositum trudentes pectore montem  
Cominus obtruncant ferro.

GEORG. Lib. III. ver. 368.

Ruæus's comment on the fifth line is as follows :  
*linea, aut funiculus erat, cui plumæ implicabantur  
variis tinctæ coloribus, ad feras terrendas, ut in retia*

*agerentur*. And a simile, which Virgil uses in the twelfth book of the *Æneid*, v. 749, and another in Lucan's *Phars. Lib. IV. v. 437*, clearly prove that the learned Jesuit has rightly explained the passage.

Note F. Page 348.

I omitted in the Commentary, to take notice of the feathers which the Author has mentioned as a means of restraining deer, because in the foregoing note he seemed to think them unnecessary; and therefore I conceived that he introduced them only as a poetical embellishment, founded merely on classical authority; but I have since learned that the practice still prevails in many, perhaps all of our English forests, particularly in that of Whittlebury. It should seem, therefore, that its continuance through ages must be supported by experience of its use, and that a horizontal line without these feathers would not be a sufficient obstruction.

Note XVI. Verse 470.

*The wise Sidonian liv'd: and, though the pest,*

ABDALONIMUS. The fact, on which this episode is founded, is recorded by Diodorus Siculus, Plutarch, Justin, and Q. Curtius; the last is here chiefly followed. M. de Fontenelle and the Abbé Metastasio have both of them treated the subject dramatically.

## Note G. Page 353.

Φοβερός γεωργός ἔδενι, φίλος πᾶσιν, ἀπειροῦ ἀιμαίος,  
 ἀπειροῦ σφαγῆς, ἱερός καὶ παναγῆς θεῶν ἐπικαρπίων καὶ  
 ἐπιληναίων καὶ ἀλώων καὶ προηροσίων· ἴσος μὲν ἐν δημο-  
 κρατία, ὀλιγαρχίαν δὲ καὶ τυραννίδα πάντων μάλιστα μισεῖ  
 γεωργία.

Γεωργοὶ πρῶτοι μὲν τῶν ἐκ γῆς καρπῶν τοῖς δεδωκόσι  
 θεοῖς ἀπαρξάμενοι—γεωργῶν φιλόνητροι μὲν αἱ ἔυχαι,  
 ἔυφημοι δὲ αἱ θυσίαι ἀπὸ οἰκείων πόνων, ἄμοιροι συμφορῶν,  
 ἄμοιροι κακῶν.

Maxim. Tyr. Dissertat. XIV.

NOTES  
UPON  
BOOK THE THIRD  
AND ITS  
COMMENTARY.

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Note H. Page 354.

THE respect Mr. Gray had for the Art of Gardening, appears in his letter to Mr. How, to which I have before referred my reader, (see Note B. p. 324) but which I shall here insert at large, because I have since been informed that a poem on the same subject has been lately published in France, and is there highly esteemed, in which the Author, like the rest of his countrymen, ascribes the origin of our gardens to the Chinese. “ He “ (Count Algarotti) is highly civil to our nation, but “ there is one point in which he does not do us justice ; “ I am the more solicitous about it, because it relates to “ the only taste we can call our own ; the only proof of “ our original talent in matter of pleasure, I mean our

“ skill in Gardening, or rather laying out grounds : and  
 “ this is no small honour to us, since neither France nor  
 “ Italy have ever had the least notion of it, nor yet do  
 “ at all comprehend it when they see it. That the  
 “ Chinese have this beautiful art in high perfection  
 “ seems very probable from the Jesuit’s letters, and  
 “ more from Chambers’s little discourse published some  
 “ years ago ; but it is very certain we copied nothing  
 “ from them, nor had any thing but Nature for our  
 “ model. It is not forty years since the art was born  
 “ among us, and as sure we then had no information on  
 “ this head from China at all.” *See Memoirs of Mr.*  
*Gray, Section V. Letter VIII.*

In the last smaller edition of Mr. Walpole’s *Anec-*  
*dotes of Painting*, the reader will also find a very enter-  
 taining and important addition made to his history of  
 Gardening on this very subject (see Vol. IV. p. 283),  
 which puts the matter out of all doubt. Yet it is to be  
 observed, that Mr. Gray and Mr. Walpole differ in their  
 ideas of Chinese perfection in this art : But had Mr.  
 Gray lived to see what he calls Chambers’s *little dis-*  
*course* enlarged into a *dissertation on Oriental Garden-*  
*ing* by Sir William Chambers, Knight, it is more than  
 probable he would have come over to his friend’s senti-  
 ments ; certain it is, he would never have agreed with  
 the French, in calling this species of gardening *Le gout*  
*Anglo-Chinois.*



## Note XVII. Verse 12.

*Place I the urn, the bust, the sculptur'd lyre,*

Mr. Gray died July 31, 1771. This book was begun a few months after. The three following lines allude to a rustic alcove the Author was then building in his garden, in which he placed a medallion of his friend, and an urn; a lyre over the entrance with the motto from Pindar, which Mr. Gray had prefixed to his Odes, ΦΩΝΑΝΤΑ ΣΥΝΕΤΟΙΣΙ, and under it, on a tablet, this stanza, taken from the first edition of his Elegy written in a country church-yard.

*Here scatter'd oft, the loveliest of the year,  
By hands unseen, are showers of violets found;  
The redbreast loves to build and warble here,  
And little footsteps lightly print the ground.*

## Note XVIII. Verse 122.

*Let England prize this daughter of the East*

Our common laurel was first brought into the Low Countries, A. D. 1576 (together with the horse chesnut) from Constantinople, as a present from David Ungnad, the Imperial Ambassador, in Turkey, to Clusius the famous botanist. It was sent to him by the name of Trabison-Curmasi, or the Date of Trebisond, but he named it Lauro-Cerasus.

Note XIX. Verse 345.

*Deepen your dripping roofs ! this feverish hour*

These lines were written in June, 1778, when it was remarkably hot weather.

Note XX. Verse 366.

*Shuts to the tuneful trifling of the Bard,*

René Rapin, a learned Jesuit of the last century, who wrote a didactic Latin Poem on Gardens, in four books, by way of supplement to Virgil's Georgics. The third book treats the subject of water, or more properly of water-works, for it is entirely made up of descriptions of jets d'eau, and such sort of artificial baubles.

Note XXI. Verse 388.

*And winds with shorter bend. To drain the rest*

See Book the Second, Ver. 50 to Ver. 78, where the curve of beauty, or a line waving very gently, is said not only to prevail in natural pathways, but in the course of rivulets and the outline of lakes. It generally does so; yet in the latter it is sometimes found more abrupt: in artificial pieces of water, therefore, sharper curves may be employed than in the formation of the sand or gravel-walk.

Note XXII. Verse 452.

*That facile mode which his inventive powers*

Mr. Brindley, who executed the Duke of Bridgewater's canal, and invented a method of making dams to hold water, without clay, using for this purpose any sort of earth duly tempered with water.

## Note I. Page 364.

The method of constructing these mounds, which is called "puddling," consists only in greatly moistening and turning the soil (of whatever nature it may be) in the manner in which mortar is tempered; for thus its parts are brought closer together, and in its almost fluid state the influence of attraction is allowed to operate, to turn to each other and bring into contact those surfaces which are best adapted to cohesion, a principle so universal, that even in sand it is found so strong, as to render it, after sufficient working, water-proof. Where an unmeasurable weight of water was to be resisted, I have seen the operation thus performed; a deep perpendicular trench was dug out about four feet wide; in this, as incident to its situation, the water sprung up very plentifully, and into this the soil that was raised was again returned by degrees, being trampled and beaten, and turned with shovels and spades, exactly (as I said before) as if it were mortar, by which means it became perfectly viscous: beyond this point labour is useless; for attraction has taken place, and no more can be added. The practice, on a very confined scale, was known before Brindley, but he first developed its principles, applied it indiscriminately to every soil, and used it to great and extensive purposes, and therefore may justly be allowed the honour of having been the inventor.

## Note K. Page 364.

We so seldom see the rock-work of these artificial cascades well executed, that persons of a refined picturesque taste, are apt to explode them, and to think of them as they do of artificial ruins and imitative buildings, that they ought never to be put into execution. Our Author, however, has ventured to recommend both, the one here, and the other in the succeeding book; and this, in my opinion, very justly, because the arguments against their use are founded only on that abuse which has taken away all likeness from the imitation; and, surely, that they have been ill imitated affords no reason that they cannot be well imitated; on the contrary, there is great reason to attempt a copy upon better principles, and execute it with truer taste, because there are scenes and situations in Nature, which absolutely call for such objects to give them their last and finished perfection. It is as necessary, therefore, for the gardener to supply them upon his living canvas, as for the landscape painter to display them upon his dead one; and he is capable of doing this, because he has sometimes actually done it with full effect.

## Note XXIII. Verse 471.

*Rejoice; as if the thund'ring Tees himself*

The fall of the Tees, near Middleton in Yorkshire, is esteemed one of the greatest in England.

Note XXIV. Verse 492.

*A Naiad dwells : LINEA is her name :*

This idea was conceived in a very retired grove at Papplewick in Nottinghamshire, the seat of Frederick Montagu, Esq. who has long honoured me with his friendship, where a little clear trout-stream (dignified perhaps too much by the name of a river) gurgles very deliciously. This stream is called the Lin, and the spring itself rises but a little way from his plantations. Hence the name of this Naiad is formed. The village itself, which is situated on the edge of the forest of Sherwood, has not been without poetical notice before, Ben Jonson having taken some of his *Dramatis Personæ* from it, in his unfinished pastoral comedy, called *The Sad Shepherd*.

Note XXV. Verse 512.

*To commerce and to care. In Margaret's grove,*  
St. John's College in Cambridge, founded by Margaret Countess of Richmond, mother of Henry the Seventh.

Note XXVI. Verse 528.

*Who stole the gift of Thetis. Hence the cause,*  
Alluding to the Ode to a Water Nymph which the Author wrote a year or two after his admission into the University. *See Ode II. in this Volume.*

NOTES  
UPON  
BOOK THE FOURTH  
AND ITS  
COMMENTARY.

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Note XXVII. Verse 101.

*A time-struck abbey. An impending grove*

IT was said in the first Book, Ver. 384, that of those architectural objects which improved a fine natural *English* prospect, the two principal were the *castle* and the *abbey*. In conformity with this idea, ALCANDER first begins to exercise his taste, by forming a resemblance of those two capital artificial features, *uniting them*, however, *with utility*. The precept is here meant to be conveyed by description, which had before been given more directly in Book II. Ver. 21.

*Beauty* scorns to dwell  
Where *Use* is exil'd.

## Note L. Page 369.

If we consider how Gothic edifices were originally constructed, it will appear how very defectively they have been, for the most part, imitated. In order, therefore to obviate this practice, I will here give a summary and brief description both of such as were Military and Ecclesiastical.

The **GOthic CASTLE**, or military structure, consisted in every instance of the **Keep** or **Strong-hold**, and the **Court** or **Enclosure** annexed to the **Keep**.

The **KEEP** was a great and high tower, either round or square, for the most part situated on an artificial elevation, the entire top of which it usually occupied. Advantage also was frequently taken of a naturally high situation.

If the tower was square, it often had annexed to it square projections, generally at the corners, and about mid-way between them, to act as buttresses, of which, however, they do not carry the appearance, as they exhibit a front greater than their projection, and do not diminish in their projection as they ascend. When round, I have frequently seen the **Keep** without any buttress whatever.

The great portal or door of entrance into the **Keep**, was always at the least one floor high from the ground, and was usually entered by means of an external staircase and vestibule, which was strongly fortified. This

stair-case led only so high as the portal, and the landing-place at the head consisted for the most part of a draw-bridge which was worked from within the Keep, and which, when raised, not only cut off all communication, but by leaning against and covering the portal, served exceedingly to strengthen it against an enemy that might already have taken possession of the vestibule and stair-case.

There was seldom any aperture for a considerable height from the ground; and as the apartments of the Lord or Commander of the Castle were near the top, it was only there that any aperture appeared which exceeded the size of a loop, and even there the windows were of but small dimensions.

The Keep was usually embattled at top, but the battlements have in general been defaced by time and ruin.

The wall of the COURT, or Enclosure was always connected with the Keep, and the entrance into it was usually by a great arch strongly fortified, and passing between two towers connected by the wall through which the arched-way was carried.—There was never any great arch in the Keep itself.

As the wall commenced at the Keep at both sides, it was commonly carried down the hill, and frequently comprehended not only the descent but also a part of the plain beneath.

The height of the wall, where it joined the Keep, was sometimes regulated by the height of the great portal



that led to the principal apartments, which, for the most part occupied the third story; for the stair-case, by which this was approached, was often built within the substance of the wall itself, in which case there was no other external vestibule.

Loops were frequently made in the wall of the enclosure; for it was of such dimensions as not only to contain a passage for maintaining a communication among the parts of the fortress within its thickness, but had sometimes even apartments either for confinement of prisoners, or for stores.

The reader who wishes for farther information on the subject, is referred to Mr. King's ingenious and accurate *Observations on ancient Castles*.

**ECCLESIASTICAL BUILDINGS, or ABBIES,** consisted generally of the great Church, a Refectory, a Chapter-House, and a Cloyster, with the necessary accommodations of Kitchen, Dormitory, &c.

The **CHURCH** was usually in the form of a cross, in the center of which rose the tower.—From east to west it was always considerably longer than from north to south.

The great west end was the place of entrance into the Church; here, therefore, the greatest degree of ornament was bestowed both on the portal and the window over it.

The lateral walls were strengthened by buttresses

which always diminished as they rose, and between every two windows was a buttress.

Within, the insulated columns ran in rows corresponding with the buttresses without.

As a cross affords two sides to each of many squares, one of these squares was usually completed, and the other two sides were supplied, the one by the cloyster, which was frequently carried in length from north to south, and the other by the refectory and chapter-house, which stood at right angles with this cloyster, and parallel to the body of the Church from east to west.

The cloyster was sometimes carried into length, and sometimes surrounded a square court; over the cloyster was the customary place for the dormitory.

None of the parts of the Abbey at all approached to the height of the Church.

The great pointed arch was an invention subsequent to the building of many Abbies, which have small round-topped windows; these, therefore, may very well be placed in the sides of the Church; but in the west end, for the most part, the pointed arch was introduced as a high ornament by succeeding architects.

There never yet was built an external column, nor an internal buttress; minature imitations of these were indeed promiscuously introduced among the smaller ornaments of the building; but the rule is invariably true with regard to the great structure itself.

The stone work of Gothic buildings was very neatly hewn and jointed; and even now their very ruins are by no means rough on the surface, except in the immediate neighbourhood of the spot where time has made a breach, or where they have been stripped of their casing.

Though the rules of Gothic architecture have not been so diligently inquired into as those of the Greek, yet certain we may be, from the resemblance which prevails, not only in the whole, but in the parts of all great Gothic edifices among themselves, that they were constructed upon rules which it would be better for us to investigate than dispense with in favour of the silly caprices which we daily see executed under the name of **GOthic BUILDINGS**, to the disgrace of our observation and taste. I have seen a Gothic Temple, an open Gothic Portico, a Gothic Cupola, and I have seen an arched Gothic Rotunda!

Magnitude is a *sine quâ non* of Gothic architecture.

I have been forced to make use of the qualifying terms *usually, for the most part, &c.* because I cannot say that any of these rules, though general, are without, perhaps, many exceptions. I am writing, not for the benefit of the Gothic architect, but his picturesque imitator, for whom these precepts and cautions, I trust, will be found sufficiently precise.

The reader will not suppose, that by thus delineating the rules by which these two sorts of edifices were constructed, I recommend to the imitator an exact copy

of the whole of either, much less that I would wish him to execute on a small scale what can only have probability when practised on a great one. I only require a judicious selection of the parts of such buildings, and that each may be made with exactness, to occupy its proper place. A remnant of the Keep, of the great gate of entrance, or even of a single tower, with an additional length of ruined wall, will frequently answer the purpose of imitation in the military style very completely, while a single high-arched window or portal, a part of a low groined cloister, and a few mutilated columns justly arranged within the supposed body of the church, will equally well answer it in the ecclesiastical style: But the general faults that have prevailed in these kinds of imitation are, first, that of designing too much, perhaps a whole; secondly, the executing that whole upon a pigmy scale; thirdly, the introduction of a capricious mode of ornament; and, lastly, a total neglect of the real position of the parts. The best, perhaps the only good rule that can be followed, is to copy some beautiful fragment of an ancient ruin with the same fidelity that one would copy a portrait, and happily for our purpose England abounds with such fragments; but let us ever avoid invention where our proper business is only imitation.

The description of Alcander's mansion remarkably coincides with Leland the Antiquary's account of Greenwich in its ancient state.

Ecce ut jam niteat locus petitus,  
 Tanquam sydereæ domus cathedræ!  
 Quæ fastigia picta! quæ fenestræ!  
 Quæ turres vel ad astra se efferentes!

ΚΥΚΛΕΙΟΝ Ἄσμα, ver. 310.

Leland died A. D. 1552.

Note XXVIII. Verse 131.

*And fright the local Genius from the scene.*

A precept is here rather more than hinted at; but it appeared to be so well founded, and yet so seldom attended to by the fabricators of Grottos, that it seemed necessary to slide back a little from the narrative into the didactic to inculcate it the more strongly.

Note XXIX. Verse 157.

*His Galatea; Yes, th' impassion'd Youth*

Alluding to a Letter of that famous Painter, written to his Friend Count Baltasar Castiglione, when he was painting his celebrated picture of Galatea, in which he tells him, *essendo carestia di belle donne, io mi servo di certa idea che viene alla mente*. See Bellori *Discriz. delle Imagini dipinte da Raffaello d' Urbino*, or the Life of B. Castiglione, prefixt to the London Edition of his Book entitled, *Il Cortegiano*.

Note XXX. Verse 201.

*Irregular, yet not in patches quaint,*

There is nothing in picturesque Gardening which should not have its archetype in unadorned Nature. Now, as we never see any of her plains dotted with dissevered patches of any sort of vegetables, except, perhaps, some of her more barren heaths, where even furze can grow but sparingly, and which form the most disagreeable of her scenes: therefore the present common mode of dotting clumps of flowers, or shrubs on a grass plot, without union, and without other meaning than that of appearing irregular, ought to be avoided. It is the form and easy flow of the grassy interstices (if I may so call them) that the designer ought first to have a regard to; and if these be well formed, the spaces for flowers or shrubbery will be at the same time ascertained.

Note XXXI. Verse 218.

*Might safely flourish; where the Citron sweet,*

M. Le Girardin, in an elegant French Essay, written on the same subject, and formed on the same principles, with this Poem, is the only writer that I have seen (or at least recollect) who has attempted to give a stove or hot-house a picturesque effect. It is his hint, pursued and considerably dilated, which forms the description of ALCANDER'S Conservatory. See his Essay, *De la Composition des Paysages*. Gen. 1777.

Note XXXII. Verse 358.

*The Linnets warble, captive none, but lur'd*

See Rousseau's charming description of the Garden of Julie, *Nouvelle Eloise*, 4 partie, lett. 11th. In consequence of pursuing his idea, no birds are introduced into ALCANDER'S Menagerie, but such as are either domesticated, or chuse to visit it for the security and food they find there. If any of my more delicate readers wish to have theirs stocked with rarer kind of fowls, they must invent a picturesque bird-cage for themselves.

Note XXXIII. Verse 427.

*Till, like fatigu'd VILLARIO, soon we find*

See Pope's Epistle to Lord Burlington, ver. 88.

Note XXXIV. Verse 448.

*Tho' foreign from the soil, provokes thy frown.*

It is hoped that from the position of this river-god in the menagerie, from the situation of the busts and vases in the flower-garden; and that of the statue in the conservatory, the reader will deduce the following general precept, "that all adventitious ornaments of sculpture ought either to be accompanied with a proper background (as the Painters term it) or introduced as a part of architectural scenery; and that when, on the contrary, they are placed in open lawns or parterres, according to the old mode, they become, like Antæus and Enceladus

mentioned in the beginning of this book, mere *scare-crows*."

Note XXXV. Verse 462.

"*If true, here only.*" Thus in Milton's phrase  
See Milton's Paradise Lost, b. iv. ver. 248, &c.

Note XXXVI. Verse 499.

*To those that tend the dying. Both the youths*

These lines are taken from the famous passage in Hippocrates in his book of Prognostics, which has been held so accurately descriptive, that dying persons are, from hence, usually said to have the *facies Hippocratica*. The passage is as follows: 'Ρίς ὀξεῖα, ὀφθαλμοὶ κῶιλοι, κροταφοὶ ζυμπεπιωκότες, ὦτα ψυχρὰ καὶ ξυνεσαλμένα, καὶ οἱ λόβοι τῶν ὠτῶν ἀπετραμμένοι, καὶ τὸ δέρμα τὸ περὶ τὸ μέτωπον, σκληρόν τε καὶ περιβλαμμένον καὶ καρφαλέον ἔον, καὶ τὸ χρῶμα τῶν ζύμπαυλῶν πρόσωπον χλωρόν τε ἢ καὶ μέλαν ἔον καὶ πελιὸν ἢ μολιθῶδες.

Note XXXVII. Ver. 646.

*He bids them raise : it seem'd a Hermit's cell ;*

If this building is found to be in its right position, structures of the same kind will be thought improperly placed when situated, as they frequently are, on an eminence commanding an extensive prospect. I have either seen or heard of one of this kind, where the builder seemed to be so much convinced of its incongruity that



he endeavoured to atone for it by the following ingenious motto :

Despicere unde queas alios, passimque videre  
Errare, atque viam palanteis quærere vitæ.

LUC. Lib. II. Ver. 9.

But it may be said, that real hermitages are frequently found on high mountains: yet there the difficulty of access gives that idea of retirement, not easily to be conveyed by imitations of them in a garden-scene, without much accompanying shade, and that lowness of situation, which occasions a seclusion from all gay objects.

Note M. Page 369.

Cicero has beautifully expressed a similar sentiment in the following terms :

“ Tum Piso : Naturâne nobis hoc datum, dicam, an  
“ errore quodam, ut cùm ea loca videamus, in quibus  
“ memoriâ dignos viros acceperimus multos esse versa-  
“ tos, magis moveamur, quàm siquando eorum ipsorum  
“ aut facta audiamus, aut scriptum aliquod legamus?  
“ velut ego nunc moveor; venit enim mihi Platonis  
“ (memoria sc.) in mentem, quem acceperimus primum  
“ hîc (in Academiâ sc.) disputare solitum: cujus etiam  
“ illi hortuli propinqui non memoriam solùm mihi affe-  
“ runt, sed ipsum videntur in conspectu meo hîc ponere;  
“ hîc Speusippus, hîc Xenocrates, hîc ejus auditor  
“ Polemo; cujus ipsa illa sessio fuit quam videmus—  
“ tanta vis admonitionis inest in locis, ut non sine causâ

“ ex his memoriæ ducta sit disciplina.”—*Cicero de Fin. Lib. V. ad init. (vide quoque quod ibid. de Carneade idem dicit.)*

My business, as an illustrator of the English Garden, properly ends here; but as the Author thought fit, in a general postscript to the first edition of his Poem, not only to assign his reasons for composing this fourth Book, in a style so different from those that go before it, but to defend the particular tale, in which he has conveyed his precepts, in a manner that I think reflects as much honour upon his heart, as the design and conduct of the story does upon his invention and judgment, I choose here to reprint the two paragraphs for the mere satisfaction of declaring my own concurrence with the sentiments they convey.

“ Though this subject was in itself as susceptible of  
 “ poetical embellishment as any that preceded it, and  
 “ much more so than those contained in the second  
 “ book; yet I was apprehensive that descriptive poetry,  
 “ however varied, might pall when continued through  
 “ so long a poem; and therefore, by interweaving a tale  
 “ with the general theme, I have given the whole a nar-  
 “ rative, and in some places a dramatic cast. The idea  
 “ was new, and I found the execution of it somewhat  
 “ difficult: however, if I have so far succeeded as to  
 “ have conveyed, through the medium of an interesting  
 “ story, those more important principles of taste, which  
 “ this part of my subject required, and if those rules

“ only are omitted which readily result from such as I  
 “ have descriptively given ; if the judicious place and  
 “ arrangement of those artificial forms, which give the  
 “ chief embellishments, to a finished garden-scene, be  
 “ distinctly noticed, I am not without hope that this  
 “ conclusion will be thought (as Sir Henry Wotton said  
 “ of Milton’s juvenile poems at the end of a miscellany)  
 “ to leave the reader in some small degree *con la bocca*  
 “ *dolce*.

“ With respect to the criticisms, which may be made  
 “ on this last book, there is one so likely to come from  
 “ certain readers, that I am inclined to anticipate it ;  
 “ and taking for granted that it will be said to breathe  
 “ too much of the spirit of party, to return the following  
 “ ready answer : The word *party*, when applied to those  
 “ men, who, from private and personal motives, compose  
 “ either a majority or minority in a house of parliament,  
 “ or to those who out of it, on similar principles, approve  
 “ or condemn the measures of any administration, is  
 “ certainly in its place : but in a matter of such magni-  
 “ tude as the present American war, in which the dearest  
 “ interests of mankind are concerned, the puny term has  
 “ little or no meaning. If, however, it be applied to me  
 “ on this occasion, I shall take it with much compla-  
 “ cency, conscious that no sentiment appears in my  
 “ Poem, which does not prove its author to be of **THE**  
 “ **PARTY OF HUMANITY.**”

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**RELIGIO CLERICI.**

OR

**THE FAITH OF A CLERGYMAN OF THE  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND;**

WRITTEN IN IMITATION OF MR. DRYDEN'S  
RELIGIO LAICI, 1796.

— ἐπαγωνίζεσθαι τῇ ἀπαξ παραδοθείσῃ  
τοῖς ἁγίοις πίσει. ΙΟΥΔΑ. 3.

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## RELIGIO CLERICI.\*

## PART THE FIRST.

**D**RYDEN, if rightly of his powers I deem,  
 Apply'd with skill his numbers to his theme :  
 If 'twas heroic, then his nervous rhyme  
 Rose on an eagle's plume, and soar'd to heights sublime ;  
 Or, if preceptive, then in vernal skies, 5  
 As near the ground the circling swallow flies  
 And skims, not touches ; so his verses keep  
 Their march pedestrian, stoop, yet scorn to creep,  
 And, like his prose, perspicuous, manly, free,  
 Surpass it only in its melody. 10  
 Rare excellence ! In this how few succeed !  
 How few, like him, could write a Layman's Creed,  
 Make logic's rules to metre's laws submit,  
 Blend truth with fancy, argument with wit !  
 Yet this he did ; and in so smooth a lay, 15  
 It satisfied the nicer ear of Gray,  
 Who always held it as the guide supreme  
 Of bards employ'd on a didactic theme.

\* Printed 1796, and now first published 1810.

Yet whether or from mother-wit or use,  
 For constant practice surely drilled his Muse, 20  
 He here succeeded may create a doubt ;  
 A veteran's talents let not me dispute :  
 Yet, now, so universal is the rage  
 Of writing, in our most enlighten'd age,  
 That myriads of each sex (I scorn to fib) 25  
 Now scan so nimbly, and now rhyme so glib,  
 They seem to claim all Dryden's eloquence,  
 And leave him merely spirit, meaning, sense.

So much for introduction. Now, my friend,  
 Best lov'd of few remaining, condescend 30  
 To hear his senior, though of after time  
 Yet mere apprentice in the craft of rhyme,  
 Produce his creed, not laical, yet free,  
 He trusts, from theologic pedantry,  
 Which you, who know him, will believe his own, 35  
 And not put on with surplice, band, and gown.  
 Nor blame him, if its import be the same  
 With that, which bears th' Egyptian bishop's name,  
 Whose rigid preface though the Bard arraign'd,  
 He own'd " the creed eternal truth contain'd." 40

But here lay Dryden's error. He conceiv'd  
 The zealous prelate bade it be believ'd  
 On his own *ipse dixit*, and we find  
 Many good churchmen still of Dryden's mind :

Indeed so many mid a sceptic crowd, 45 }  
 I scarce can wonder Tillotson avow'd }  
 His wish 'twere from the Liturgy remov'd. }  
 Not because false ; he ne'er suppos'd it so,  
 But if remov'd (vain hope) that it might draw,  
 By firmer cords of unity and love, 50  
 To one true faith, that creed who disapprove.

But why arraign the preface ? if it came  
 From man, if scripture did not say the same ;  
 Or if discordant from its gen'ral code,  
 With Dryden I'd refuse the Pharisaic load. 55  
 Yet if in Christian soil, and that alone,  
 The tree must spring, that by its fruit is known ;  
 And if its root be Faith, all must agree  
 To take the scion from the parent tree ;  
 No foreign stem, if grafted there, can shoot ; 60  
 No truth can bloom on error's baneful root :  
 All hope to save it is a vain desire,  
 Down it is dash'd, and flung into the fire.

Methinks, I hear some pert Priestleian cry,  
 " Must Christians then on metaphors rely ? 65  
 " The creed, you copy, tells us plain and brief,  
 " Endless perdition follows unbelief."

Quit then the metaphor ; its meaning take ;  
 You'll find it His who spake as no man spake.



From him, not man, I copy ; and his word                   70  
 Shall be the sum and substance I record,  
 Touching my creed ; if from his word I learn,  
 That faith in him is my supreme concern ;  
 If wanting that, I lose the blessing high,  
 His blood has purchas'd, Immortality,                   75  
 What may I hope ? If I from reason draw  
 Conclusions unsupported by his law,  
 Mistate, abridge the doctrines he has given,  
 I lose all place in my Redeemer's heav'n ;  
 And, whether I or Athanasius speak,                   80  
 The prize is lost, he purchas'd for my sake.  
 What then remains ? the unbeliever's doom,  
 Endless perdition in a life to come ?

Who founds his faith on Revelation's base  
 Must hold, that all of Adam's sinful race                   85  
 Inherit death from their delinquent sire :  
 Yet still may christian Charity aspire,  
 To nurse a modest hope that those who lie  
 Uncherish'd by the Day-spring from on high  
 May still be blest, ev'n though a tenfold shade           90  
 Of Pagan darkness now involves their head ;  
 And only those, the obstinately blind,  
 Will meet the doom intail'd on lost mankind.  
 Hence the same Charity, heart-cheering guest,  
 That burnt, with fervent flame, in Dryden's breast,   95

Inspirits mine ; that Charity, which Paul  
 Says “ hopeth all things, and believeth all,”  
 But this is not reveal’d : what *is* alone  
 The true believer dares to call his own.  
 More he may hope, and he that hopes the most, 100  
 Though haply by some waves of error tost,  
 Will steer his Christian bark from quicksands free,  
 Whose helm is Faith, whose sail is Charity.

This stumbling-stone remov’d, I scarce shall need  
 To free our Alexandrian prelate’s creed 105  
 From those objectors, who conceive it meant  
 Purely to threaten those, who dare dissent  
 From Faith established, not by Heav’n but man,  
 And hence abjure its persecuting plan.  
 Alas ! while man is man there will be found 110  
 Those, who on this, or any creed will ground,  
 Or none at all, some false pretence to draw  
 The scymitar ; and, scorning every law  
 Divine or human, like the deluge, flood  
 Their native country with their brethren’s blood. 115  
 Ask you for proof from bigot zeal ? review  
 Charles’s dread deeds on Saint Bartholomew.  
 Ask you for proofs from want of Faith ? They’re clear  
 In the dread deeds of Danton and Robespierre.  
 Weigh’d on the beam of justice, not of Bayle ! 120  
 See then which separate evil turns the scale,

What, equal ! Surely then Lucretius ly'd,  
Who cast his make-weight on Religion's side.

But he, who duly marks th' historic page,  
Will find my creed confess'd in that same age, 125  
When Arius triumph'd now, was now subdu'd,  
As emp'rors or as empresses allow'd,  
When common-sense was scorn'd, and quibbling priz'd,  
When myst'ry found itself more mysticis'd,  
Will sanely judge a creed, whose ev'ry phrase 130  
Was form'd to free from the scholastic maze  
Well-meaning christians : might securely fix  
Their faith on Scripture, not on schismatics.

Thus far, methinks, with prudent step I steer,  
Nor yet can have offended L \* \* 's ear 135 }  
With Trinity, to him a word of fear :  
L \* \* , who learns his heresy by rote,  
And would be nothing, if deny'd to quote.  
Nor will I use it from its adjunct free,  
But join it evermore with Unity ; 140  
Reclaim the term, he and his tribe have stole,  
(With them such larceny, though great, is small)  
For, this purloin'd, they but to us concede  
One fragment of this mutilated creed ;  
A creed, to those, who take its meaning right, 145  
That strictly keeps one Deity in sight ;

Form'd as a bulwark, and a bulwark strong,  
 'Gainst all, on that dread theme who swerve from right to  
 wrong ;

Yet, if we leave them of that term possest,  
 They brand us for idolators profest, 150  
 Who to three Gods our adoration pay,  
 And might with Papists to God's mother pray ;  
 While they relinquishing their former name,  
 Flutter on Unitarian wings to fame,  
 To Unitarian worship rear the dome, 155  
 And bid all half-believing Christians come,  
 Provided they put off their wedding vest,  
 Like halt and blind, to their new-garnish'd feast  
 Of dishes second-hand, and badly drest. }

But quit we these ; and while we scorn to own 160  
 Our faith refers to Trinity alone,  
 Yet still it holds, as Scripture held before,  
 One undivided, one exalted pow'r,  
 That in the Father and the Son resides,  
 And Sacred Spirit, purest, best of guides. 165  
 But wherefore holds ? only as far as man  
 The mystic height of godliness may scan,  
 We may conceive God gives our mortal race  
 Salvation, not for merit, but from grace ;  
 That from the Son divine Redemption springs, 170  
 That the pure Spirit, once on dove-like wings

Descending visibly, still deigns to dart  
 Its secret aid on each submissive heart.  
 Thus, though deriv'd from one exhaustless spring  
 Three plenteous streams redundant blessings bring, 175  
 The fountain head united with them all  
 We may not three, but One conjointly call.

“ This too is metaphor ?” Socinian, yes :  
 But, if a false one, prove me that it is.  
 Water is still call'd water, if it glide  
 Or in a trinal, or a single tide ;  
 So God in Gospel language is apply'd  
 To all the wonders of supernal power,  
 That from the Sire, and Son, and Spirit show'r.

180 }  
 }  
 }

Resting on this, I first believe with Paul 185  
 One God, who is, was, shall be, all in all ;  
 Yet, as with him I find in holy writ,  
 Another person, and another yet  
 Reveal'd distinct, the Father, and the Son,  
 And hallow'd Spirit ; I include in one 190  
 The three distinctions, and believe all three  
 One comprehensive sole Divinity.  
 Thus on the terms, by which I was baptis'd,  
 That charter great, which seal'd me christianiz'd,  
 I take with confidence the certain road, 195  
 That leads through Scripture up to Scripture's God.

That he is One, plain Reason can descry ;  
 And when his word presents him to the eye,  
 Reliev'd by faith from error, still must shine  
 One Being indivisibly divine. 200

Hence, howsoe'er the artful Arians aim  
 This old confession of our faith to blame,  
 'Twas meant to One Divinity to raise  
 Due adoration both in prayer and praise :  
 Else why does it repeat " not three, but one" 210  
 Ev'n to tautology ? Why not alone  
 To ev'ry person of the sacred Three  
 Ascribe a single, disjoin'd Deity ?

Too soon, alas ! ev'n in th' Apostles' age  
 Did heresy defile the Gospel page, 215 }  
 Led by false science and scholastic rage.  
 Then rose that zeal for novelty, which made  
 Verbal theology a gainful trade :  
 Nor could a common scholar open shop,  
 Till he of terms had gain'd a num'rous crop 220  
 To fill his mental granary : with his hoard  
 Of these he first the market price explor'd,  
 Then 'gan to speculate, as farmers do,  
 Reserv'd the old and traffick'd with the new :  
 And, if he well could vend false eloquence, 225  
 Car'd not what famine starv'd poor common sense.

But when scholastic owl-light was withdrawn,  
 And real science now had past its dawn,

Divines there were, who deem'd the deed no theft  
 To borrow what their ancestors had left, 230  
 Yet sifted ev'ry term before they us'd,  
 The good adopted, and the bad refus'd ;  
 Then stamp't the first for sterling. Thus, we see,  
 With others they selected *Trinity* ;  
 Nor scrupled they, if Paganish, to use 235  
 A word, that none but Deists could abuse ;  
 A word, with *Unity* when closely join'd,  
 Which brief and clear the scripture truth defin'd ;  
 That God in trinal persons, trinal ways,  
 His one eternal majesty displays. 240  
 " But how ? "—That question soon may be dismiss'd,  
 When Darwin shows how he and I exist ;  
 For, by Lavoisier taught (that sage I mean  
 Whom Freedom's bastards chose to guillotine)  
 He knows two Gnomes produced from mine or moat,  
 In Gallic-Greek call'd Carbone and Azote, 246  
 By secret spells allure to their embrace  
 Bright Oxygen, a Sylph of heavenly race,  
 Mix with her purity their filth and fire  
 To form that atmosphere we both respire 250 }  
 Which did they not, nor he could screw his lyre }  
 To that high pitch, which blabs what strange amours  
 Are carried on in Flora's secret bowers,  
 Nor I unscrew my own to tones so low,  
 It merely gives to prose a verse-like flow, 255  
 Truths to describe, which clearly to explain  
 Reason's dim lamp has burnt for centuries in vain.

" A strange confession !"—But does Darwin more ?  
 He names three fluids ; he describes their pow'r  
 When separate ; he demonstrates that they give     260  
 Conjoin'd that *pabulum* by which we live ;  
 But how they join'd at first, and why they still  
 Th' ethereal void with the same mixture fill,  
 Let him explain, ere you demand from me  
 What forms the undivided Trinity.                     265

No more of Deity, than Gospel light  
 Reveals, can ere be plain to Reason's sight.  
 Is more reveal'd, than clearly she conceives ?  
 Calm she submits, yet piously believes.  
 But, though she here perceives herself confin'd,     270  
 Let none but Atheists dare to call her blind.  
 She still is Reason, still exerts the pow'r,  
 By which she fixt her premises before,  
 That God is truth, and this conclusion drew  
 Justly, that all he speaks must needs be true,     275 }  
 Though all not clear alike to her contracted view.  
 Of these what follow are in Scripture strain,  
 Some beyond Reason, some to Reason plain.  
 It says creative Power, redeeming Love,  
 And sanctifying Grace are from above :             280  
 It bids us duely venerate the Son,  
 Ev'n as the Sire ; it tells us not alone  
 From Sire, but Son, the Comforter is sent  
 To man ; if then by both that gift be lent,



Which only they can lend, the three combine 285 }  
 In one ineffable sublime design,  
 And are, as one, all equally divine.  
 It tells us that, though nominally three,  
 And thence call'd persons, some diversity  
 To two attaches. All are uncreate, 290  
 Yet is the Son's a generated state,  
 Before all worlds begotten by the Sire,  
 And thence from both thy soul-inspiring fire,  
 O sacred Paraclete ! proceeding free  
 Gives thee with both divine equality, 295  
 Which, whether God or Lord we choose to call,  
 Must not be said of One, but said of all.

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Thus far some truths, all Christians should receive  
 Who hope salvation, I have try'd to give  
 In careless metre, not in labour'd lays ; 300  
 Yet if a verse (as pious Herbert says)  
 " May chance to find him, who a sermon flies,  
 " And turn delight into a sacrifice,"  
 So these perus'd with candour, may dispel  
 Some scruples, that with almost-Christians dwell. 305  
 I trust, at least, that the impartial few  
 Will find that doctrine, they before thought true,  
 Not here disguis'd, though clad in vesture new. }



Laid long ago by Polish pioneers ; 25  
 These move my scorn, they cannot rouse my fears ;  
 Firm on that faith, its heav'nly builder plann'd,  
 The time-proof fabric of the Church shall stand,  
 And ev'ry human enemy repel,  
 For fortified by heav'n, it braves the gates of hell. 30

If then in England's fruitful nursery rise  
 Such heresies as this of giant size,  
 Through which a thousand minor planters run,  
 Busy as day-flies in the noontide sun,  
 To propagate by cuttings, or to graft 35  
 On varying stocks, as suits their varying craft,  
 I much suspect their labour will be lost,  
 Now the head-gard'ner, in himself a host,  
 Self-exil'd wanders to New England's coast. }  
 Vain man ! the tares he in the Old has sown, 40  
 He thinks are to such full perfection grown,  
 Will now so little care, or wat'ring want,  
 L — , or L ——— may nurse each plant,  
 When, by some lucky opposition hit,  
 They've over-turn'd the Church, the Test, and Pitt. 45

“ Imprudent Poet ! ” says some grave divine,  
 “ Let not a Muse so orthodox as thine  
 “ Descend to wit or humour.”—Pardon, Sir ;  
 The readers of this age require a spur

Nicely apply'd to tickle, not to goad, 50  
 If you would wish to keep them in your road.  
 Pope, when he reason'd, deem'd it right to steer  
 " From grave to gay, from lively to severe"——  
 " Admit he did, the difference you must see  
 " Is great ; his theme was mere morality, 55  
 " While yours"——I know 'tis of that torrent kind,  
 It quite o'erflows all bounds of human mind ;  
 Nay, fill'd angelic minds with warm desire  
 Some glimpse of that high myst'ry to acquire ;  
 But I, who other readers have in view, 60  
 Frankly confess, I do not write for you.  
 You can from Chillingworth or Hooker gain  
 Drugs, that best purge from heresy the brain ;  
 And antidotes to errors so absurd  
 Prepar'd by Jones, Burgh, Cleaver, Horseley, Hurd. 65  
 But their prescriptions, Doctor, ne'er would mend  
 The fashionable patients I attend :  
 Their malady, at once both old and new,  
 Partakes of fever, and of dropsy too :  
 He, therefore, who with skill their case would treat, 70  
 Must give them med'cines that both cool and heat.  
 For you, and such as you, a solemn theme  
 Must still be handled solemn in extreme :  
 If controversial, heavy arms alone,  
 The weaver's beam, and not the sling and stone, 75  
 Must be each champion's weapon ; to employ  
 A flash of wit, by way of *feu de joie*,

Like Warburton ; you deem incongruous quite,  
 And, though a victor, blame the dang'rous wight,  
 Adhering ever to this golden rule, 80  
 A stanch Polemic must be strictly dull.  
 I'll not, for his trim periods, court the thief  
 Who tries to swindle me of my belief ;  
 Nor the dull game of mock politeness play,  
 With men involv'd in Paul's anathema. 85  
 Yet I, like you, Lord Shaftsbury's rule detest,  
 Which sets up ridicule, of truth the test :  
 You surely then with safety may admit  
 Detected falsehood, a fair butt for wit.  
 Hence on my present theme, as on the past, 90  
 I sprinkle grains of salt to give it taste,  
 That those may read, who never redde before,  
 And those, who read already, may read more.

With this apology, my reverend Friend,  
 Perchance, Right Reverend, I my preface end, 95  
 And here assert, just as I first began,  
 That all, who Scripture's genuine sense would scan, }  
 Must hold the Son of God both God and Man. }  
 God, whom the eternal generating Sire  
 Did with his full divinity inspire ; 100  
 First of the first of all, and last of last,  
 Beyond all count of future, present, past ;  
 For merely from beginning down to end,  
 Our pigmy calculating powers extend,

From step to step o'er days, years, ages, climb, 105  
 Curb'd by the scant arithmetic of time ;  
 And can but mark, by mensuration clear,  
 A few brief digits of duration's sphere ;  
 Hence all we know is that with God he sprung  
 Before heav'n's curtain o'er creation hung, 110 }  
 Before the morning stars their first glad chorus sung. }

True, as the turnsole to the orb of light,  
 The genuine Christian keeps his faith in sight,  
 Nor doubts the fact, because he knows the end,  
 For which that God did from his Sire descend, 115  
 Disrob'd himself of glory, and became  
 A man in substance, and a man in name ;  
 Of woman-born, in whom each mortal eye  
 Saw all itself, save its impurity :  
 Thus, while a perfect man on earth he shone, 120  
 The perfect Deity was still his own ;  
 Inferior only to his Sire on high  
 But as invested with humanity :  
 Thus when with heav'nly earthly we compare,  
 Both soul and body claim an equal share 125  
 In our formation ; so in his were join'd  
 Terrestrial substance with celestial mind.  
 Hence, though both God and Man, as Christ alone  
 We from his birth but one Redeemer own ;  
 That wond'rous birth, by which he man became, 130  
 While his pure godhead still remain'd the same,

Yet, by such union intimately join'd,  
 As in our frame, the body, soul, or mind ;  
 They therefore, who preserve the Gospel clue,  
 As God and Man their sole Messiah view. 135

“ But is such union possible ?” With God  
 All things are possible—Take Butler’s road ;  
 Travel the path of plain analogy,  
 ’Twill lead at least to probability,  
 And sure, when demonstration is deny’d, 140  
 Reason should in the next best thing confide.  
 Think ye, if Locke or Newton in a glass  
 Survey’d the reflex image of his face,  
 Would he from thence conclude he view’d the whole ?  
 No, he would know he had an unseen soul 145  
 Illumining each feature, and decide  
 That soul, he could not from himself divide.  
 This granted, next suppose the soul, thus join’d  
 To substance, were not to that mass confin’d,  
 But could diffuse itself ; the thoughts discern 150  
 Of other souls, their wants, their weakness learn,  
 And hence, with faculties of amplest reach,  
 Far, far beyond the puny powers of speech,  
 Transfuse by intuition, and dispense  
 All that was needful of superior sense ; 155  
 In such a Newton, or a Locke you’d see  
 No faint resemblance of a Trinity ;

Two parts of which, when nature first began,  
 Form'd God's own image, and was call'd a man,  
 But when the Word, made flesh, with mortals dwelt, 160  
 That Word alone the trinal Union felt.

Till then the world was wrapt in shades of night.  
 Glory to Israel, to the Gentiles light  
 His saving advent spread. Where'er he trod  
 Creation bow'd, and own'd th' incarnate God. 165  
 Celestial pow'rs his mighty mission seal'd ;  
 Dæmons he vanquish'd, raging storms he still'd ;  
 Gave to the deaf to hear, the dumb to speak,  
 Eyes to the blind, and sinews to the weak ;  
 To sinners pardon, precepts to mankind, 170  
 And to each rule his bright example join'd.  
 In these blest works his ev'ry hour employ'd ;  
 For man he liv'd in toil, in torments died ;  
 Died, though his voice before its power had prov'd  
 To call from death to life the friend he lov'd ; 175  
 Yet prompt to execute his Father's will,  
 Prompt the sure word of prophecy to seal  
 With his own blood, he pass'd through thy domain,  
 Dread Hades ! from the grave he rose again,  
 Sojourn'd some space with his selected few, 180  
 Enough to prove his resurrection true,  
 Then on a brilliant cloud ascending high,  
 Sat at his Sire's right hand, the filial Deity.



Come, ye vain worldly disputants, and read  
 This single portion of my general Creed ! 185  
 Then say, if here I paint his portrait true,  
 First in an earthly, then a heav'nly view ;  
 And when each sacred feature I define,  
 From scripture copying closely line by line,  
 I am not justified, on reason's plan, 190  
 To deem my Saviour God, as well as Man,  
 And with him to the Sire and Spirit raise  
 One undivided hymn of equal praise ?

Deny you this ?—Then go, as you think meet,  
 Or to America or Essex-street, 195  
 The last is nearest, and you there may buy,  
 Neat as imported, ev'ry fresh supply  
 Of that lean faith, which suits your palates best,  
 Much like the food in new French kitchens drest,  
*A la Republicaine* ; no need to carve, 200  
 The soupe's so *maigre*, you may eat, yet starve.

For me, I wait that future day of doom  
 With hope, through faith, which soon or late must come,  
 When man's probation finally shall end,  
 When Christ, the King of glory, shall descend 205  
 Amply triumphant, borne on Seraph's wing ;  
 When all Heav'n's chorus loud Hosannas sing,  
 When earth convulsive bursts, when Ether flames,  
 When the last trumpet of my God proclaims

**MESSIAH** present; when that Judge most just      210  
 Shall weigh the merits of the sons of dust,  
 Rais'd in immortal bodies, yet the same,  
 That some must wear to honour, some to shame,  
 Yet all must wear; for Death, the last of foes,  
 Subdu'd, Mortality's vain scene will close,      215  
 And good and bad eternally remain,  
 Those crown'd with glory, these consign'd to pain,  
 This is the faith, the sacred page reveals;  
 This the sole Charter of Salvation seals.

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And now, my friend, if thy severest eye      220  
 An error in my Christian creed descry;  
 An error but in substance, not in style,  
 I pray thee use thy hatchet, not thy file,  
 And hew it down. Let slighter faults remain.  
 Enough for me, if this familiar strain      225 }  
 Give to the general ear its meaning plain.  
 There are, who, more than pathos or sublime,  
 Love fluent verse when link'd with easy rhyme;  
 For these I write. Let those who write for fame,  
 Or trade in print, pursue their humbler aim.      230

**TRUTH!** Truth reveal'd! be thou my hallow'd theme,  
 And if, through vacant youth's delirious dream,  
 Or ev'n maturest manhood, far too long  
 I've wander'd, with more favour'd sons of song,

Through fancy's maze ; 'tis meet my green old age 235  
 Should prompt me, or to check the tuneful rage,  
 Or clothe in verse truths, when ordain'd to teach  
 In prose, by duty I was bound to preach ;  
 And, when those truths surpass'd all human wit,  
 Bid Reason modestly to Faith submit, 240  
 Holding this best of maxims still in view,  
 What God declares, though darkly, must be true.

Confirm'd in this, yet witless of the ways,  
 By which that God his inward grace conveys  
 To sinful souls, in many a musing hour 245  
 I've thus invok'd his salutary power—  
 “ SPIRIT OF INWARD PURITY, control  
 The wild conceptions of my wayward soul !  
 When memory, counting long past follies o'er,  
 Delights to dwell on what it should deplore, 250  
 And, musing or on vain, or vicious toys,  
 The fruits of rising penitence destroys,  
 Come to thy vot'ry, come, celestial guest,  
 And drive the busy demon from my breast !  
 So shall each passion, purified by thee, 255  
 Be all dissolv'd in fervent Piety ;  
 So shall weak reason, strengthen'd by thy grace,  
 The path, that leads to sure salvation, trace  
 Through that firm faith alone, which justifies,  
 In my Redeemer's living sacrifice ; 260

Prov'd by its works, which, like the Saints above,  
Abounds in acts of Charity and Love."

'Thus I— Let others, who despise the strain,  
And deem all aid of grace internal vain  
To cure the general atrophy of mind, 265  
Their sov'reign cure in their own reason find.  
Grant, Heav'n, they may! Such cures, I fear, are rare.  
Let me with David give myself to prayer;  
Prayer, the true solace of the sickly soul,  
When rul'd by Resignation's meek control, 270  
Or join'd to that, the tribute of the heart,  
Which, fir'd with fervour unallay'd by art,  
Rolls the pure stream of gratitude along,  
In prose prepar'd, or soul-expanding song,  
For blessings pour'd from blessings sov'reign spring 275  
Fir'd with such gratitude, I now will sing  
What best may sanctify, and best may end  
That Christian Creed, a Christian Priest has penn'd.

" FATHER, REDEEMER, COMFORTER DIVINE!  
This humble off'ring to thy equal shrine 280  
Here thy unworthy servant grateful pays  
Of undivided thanks, united praise,  
For all those mercies, which at birth began,  
And ceaseless flow'd through life's long-lengthen'd span;  
Propt my frail frame through all the varied scene, 285  
With health enough for many a day serene;

Enough of science clearly to discern  
How few important truths the wisest learn ;  
Enough of arts ingenuous to employ  
The vacant hours, when graver studies cloy ;       290  
Enough of wealth to serve each honest end,  
The poor to succour, or assist a friend ;  
Enough of faith in Scripture to descry,  
That the sure hope of immortality,  
Which only can the fear of death remove,       295  
Flows from the fountain of REDEEMING LOVE.

ANNOTATIONS  
ILLUSTRATIVE AND CRITICAL,  
ON THE  
FOREGOING POEM.

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PART FIRST.

Page 427. Ver. 15.

*Yet this he did; and in so smooth a lay,  
It satisfied the nicer ear of Gray,  
Who always held it as the guide supreme  
Of bards employ'd on a didactic theme.*

I have often heard my friend give this eulogy to the Religio Laici in nearly the same words. My theme being strictly similar to Dryden's, I shall be more than content if my execution be found, in point of intelligibility, similar.

Page 428. Ver. 21.

*He here succeeded may create a doubt ;*

I have heard my abovementioned friend, who admired Dryden even to excess, say, that he attained his excellence in versification by study and practice. Speaking of a juvenile

poem written by him, on the death of Lord Hastings, he said it was so very rude and uncouth in point of numbers, that it indicated he was endowed by no natural ear for poetical rhythm. I lately re-examined it, and find it of that species of poetry, which Dr. Johnson calls Metaphysical, but which I should rather term Pseudophysical (if I had as great a licence to coin words as the Doctor); for the Poets in vogue at that time thought it a test of excellence to combine true and natural images in a forced, a false, and unnatural manner. In this style Dr. Donne appears to have been Dryden's archetype. With respect to the Poem in question, he appears to aim at rivalling him not only in false wit and false thoughts, but in prosaic phrase, and unmetrical or ill-accented verses. In the former he even outstrips his master, as a young hound, got upon a wrong scent is said by huntsmen to throw himself more out of the chace than an old one.

Page 428. Ver. 31.

*To hear his senior, though of after time.*

Dryden died aged 67. The *Religio Laici*, written on Protestant principles, preceded his *Hind and Panther*, written when he had changed his religion. The former was published, according to the *Biographical Dictionary*, in the year 1682, when he was aged 51. The author of this Poem was above 20 years older at the time it was written. This chronological notice is here given in plea for the candour of the reader.

Page 428. Ver. 40.

*He own'd " the creed eternal truth contain'd."*

The paragraph here alluded to in Dryden's Poem runs thus,

Nor does it hurt my charity to find  
The Egyptian bishop of another mind,  
For though his creed eternal truth contains,  
'Tis hard for man to doom to endless pains  
All who believ'd not all his zeal requir'd,  
Unless he first could prove he was inspir'd.

We see, therefore, that it was what are called the damnatory clauses in the Confession of Athanasius, that solely offended Dryden, and which he thought ought not to have been inserted by any but an inspired person; it is the business of this Poem, from v. 63 to v. 69, to shew that they are founded on the parabolic declaration of Christ himself.

Page 428. Ver. 43.

*On his own ipse dixit, &c.*

So too Lord Roscommon in his commendatory Poem of the Religio Laici:

Whatever Councils have approved his Creed,  
The Preface, sure, was his own act and deed.

Page 429. Ver. 46.

*I scarce can wonder Tillotson avow'd  
His wish 'twere from the Liturgy remov'd.  
Not because false; he ne'er suppos'd it so,*

This wish of the excellent Archbishop was expressed in a



letter to Bishop Burnet, which is to be found in the life of that prelate published at the end of the second volume of the History of his Own Times, p. 709, and also in Dr. Birch's life of the Archbishop, p. 342. The Socinians, and particularly Mr. Lindsey, boast much of having so great a man on their side, as they pretend, but cannot really think, if ever they have read the 43d to the 47th sermon of his on the divinity and incarnation of Christ; the 47th on his sacrifice, the 48th on the unity of the divine nature, and particularly p. 572, fol. ed. to the end of that discourse, which are all of them so consistent with the creed in question, and the first and second articles of our church, that I think myself perfectly supported, that he did not suppose it false, but only wished it out of the Liturgy for the reasons assigned in this passage. That the Socinians thought the sermons here referred to very unfavourable to their cause, appears from one of their principal leaders at the time, Mr. Firmin, a considerable trader in London, having procured somebody to write an answer to them. See Birch's Life of Tillotson, page 319, 320, &c.

Page 431. Ver. 120,

*Weigh'd on the beam of justice, not of Bayle! &c.*

M. Bayle wrote a treatise to prove, that superstition was more prejudicial to civil society than atheism. The line of Lucretius,

Tantum Relligio potuit suadere malorum,

is also here alluded to, as two dogmas, which the sons of equality in France have proved to be false.

Page 432. Ver. 126.

*When Arius triumph'd now, was now subdu'd,  
As emp'rors or as empressés allow'd,*

It may not be amiss to inform those, who are unacquainted with ecclesiastical history, that the time here alluded to is the beginning of the fourth century, when the first emperor converted to Christianity, Constantine, reigned. It was then, that the sect of the Arians rose, which occasioned great commotions in church and state. On these accounts he convened a Council at Nice in Bithynia, in which the Nicene Creed, now received into our Church, was composed. Arius, the founder of the sect, was in consequence banished. He was, however, before Constantine's death, recalled, and this, as Mosheim tells us in his *Eccles. History*, Sect. 4th, Part. II. cap. 5, S. 13, by means of an Arian priest whom Constantia, the sister of the Emperor, had on her death-bed recommended to him. This person persuaded the Emperor to recall him from exile and restore him to his office and dignity. In consequence of this, Athanasius, the immediate successor of Alexander, Bishop of Alexandria, did precisely what his predecessor, who was a violent opposer of Arius, would have done; he refused to obey the Emperor's mandate of restoration, and therefore, in his turn, was banished by a sentence of the Council of Tyre, A. D. 335, but was not like Arius ever recalled from Gaul, the place of his exile, by any of the succeeding Emperors. (See Mosheim's *Eccles. Hist. Institution.*

p. 186.) If, therefore, the Confession was really written by him (which I am far from asserting) it was during his banishment, with a view still farther to establish the Nicene Creed, of which indeed the latter part of his is nearly a transcript, and the former (as it seems to me) composed to controvert certain opinions, which the Arians, now victorious, had laid to the charge of the Trinitarians. However this be, I learn from the judicious Hooker, “ that the Creed itself was first exhibited to Julius, Bishop of Rome, and probably by him sent to the Emperor Jovian, then reigning. That it was accepted by both the Eastern and Western Churches as a jewel of inestimable price *by as many as had not given up even the very ghost of belief.*”

Eccles. Pol. Book v. Sec. 42.

Page 433. Ver. 150.

*They brand us for idolators profest,*

This Mr. Lindsey has not scrupled to do in his later publications, though he was rather more reserved before he became the professed disciple and vindicator of Dr. Priestley. He however thinks he mollifies the term by adding the adjective *Christian* to it, which is absurd enough in a writer who holds the Trinity, as we conceive of it, absolutely *Antichristian*. For myself, if I am to be called an idolator, it is very indifferent to me, whether he considers me as a Pagan or Christian one: in either case he must think me either a fool or a knave.

————— *I first believe with Paul*

*One God, who is, was, shall be, all in all;*

I do not think it necessary to note every scriptural text or passage to which I allude, with that exactitude that is usually done in sermons. But upon this line I choose to produce three amongst several authorities which might be taken from the great Apostle of the Gentiles.

1st. In his eloquent speech to the Athenians, Acts, chap. 17, verse 22, describing to them the God to them *unknown*, he says, “in him we live, move, and have being,” which is more than sufficient to prove that *God is*. That he *was* I shall only set down the first text that occurs to me, Col. chap. 1, verse 16, “all things were created by him,” according to the first chapter of Genesis. But upon the assertion that he *shall be, all in all*, I take leave to be more particular. The Apostle uses these words verbatim, Cor. 15, verse 29, where speaking of the consummation of all things, and when death shall be swallowed up in victory, he tells them that the humanity of Christ, as existing while his mediatorial character existed, shall then *be subject* to the Father, who before had put all things under him. Till that momentous time we have then all scriptural reason to believe that Christ in his manhood equalizes with the Godhead, but that then the trinal personality ceases, which, according to the same Apostle’s doctrine, was not to cease till after the second coming of our Saviour; for when writing

to the Colossians, chap. 3, on that subject "when Christ, who is our life, shall appear, ye also shall appear with him in glory," he ends the subject with the very same expression (using only the word Christ instead of God) which he used to the Corinthians, saying, that then *Christ is all and in all*,

It appears, I think, from these two very parallel passages, that St. Paul held the second advent of Christ, and the final consummation of all things, as two distinct periods: in one, that Christ held the sovereignty as Θεανθρωπος, in the other, that this distinction ceased.

As a comment to my Poem, let me add to this note, that the lines which follow from ver. 193 to ver. 215 are intended as a concise exposition of the Confession of Athanasius in part; and that after a digression, principally historical, that exposition is resumed at ver. 277, and continued to ver. 298, where all asserted concerning the trinal union of the Godhead is concluded.

Page 435. Ver. 217, 218.

*Then rose that zeal for novelty, which made  
Verbal theology a gainful trade:*

The interval here alluded to is from the second century to the end of the scholastic divinity.

Page 436. Ver. 234.

*With others they selected Trinity;*

This word is said to have been first brought into use

by Theophilus, Bishop of Antioch, about the latter end of the second century. When a better mode of philosophizing took place, it was retained for the reason, as I suppose, because a natural one, which I have given in the text: but Theophilus of Essex-street, zealous to bring all authorities, good, bad, and indifferent to support his own scruples, tells us that both Luther and Calvin quarrelled with the term as much as he does. But did they quarrel with the doctrine which that term implies? By no means; for he owns that “they were warm con-  
 tenders for what is called the doctrine of the Trinity.” See Lindsey’s Apology, p. 14. That it was used by Papists might be a reason, though no sufficient one, with these two reformers, for disliking the term, as it is a reason full as insufficient for Mr. Lindsey’s reprobating it.

Page 436. Ver. 243.

*For, by Lavoisier taught (that sage I mean  
 Whom Freedom’s bastards chose to guillotine)*

M. Lavoisier, the inventor of the new chemical system, with its terms, is said to have suffered in this manner in the reign of terror and Robespierre. For an explication of the rest of this paragraph, and to what it alludes, the reader is referred to Dr. Darwin’s Botanic Garden, and Loves of the Plants, and particularly to the Notes. According to Lavoisier, oxygen, which is vital, or dephlogisticated air, according to other chemists, and azote, their phlogisticon, which destroys life and flame, together with

carbone, which they call fixed, or mephitic air, equally destructive, and the heaviest of the three, are the component parts of the atmosphere: as hydrogen, the lightest of the four, and inflammable, when combined with oxygen, compose water.

Page 437. Ver. 268.

*Is more reveal'd, than clearly she conceives?*

*Calm she submits, and piously believes.*

This sentiment is taken from Mr. Locke's opinion of the provinces of Faith and Reason. "Whatsoever (says this philosopher) is divine revelation ought to over-rule all our opinions, prejudices, and interests, and hath a right to be received with full assent. Such a submission as this of our reason to faith takes not away the landmarks of knowledge: this shakes not the foundations of reason; but leaves us that use of our faculties, for which they were given." See Essay on Human Understanding, Book IV. Chap. XVIII. Sect. 10.

Page 437. Ver. 279.

*It says creative Power, redeeming Love,*

*And sanctifying Grace are from above:*

At this verse the rest of that part of the Creed, which includes its first subject, is resumed, continued, and concluded at ver. 296.

Page 438. Ver. 301.

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 (as pious *Herbert* says)

The Rev. George Herbert was the fifth son of Richard Herbert, Esq. and brother to the famous Edward Lord Herbert of Cherbury. He was Prebendary of Lincoln, and Rector of Bemerton near Salisbury. He was a celebrated poet in his day, of what I have called the Pseudo-physical kind, and I believe the couplet I have quoted one of the best, because the simplest he ever wrote; it is taken from the first of his collection of poems, called the Temple, whence Crashaw (a much better poet) called his miscellany *Steps to the Temple*. He lived in the former part of the last century.



A N N O T A T I O N S

ON

THE SECOND PART.

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Page 439. Ver. 8.

*Decide the Lord, who bought them, was but man ;*

The first part of this Poem having inculcated the scripture-doctrine concerning the divine union of three persons in the Deity, this second proceeds to draw from the sacred fount what is to be believed concerning the incarnation of the second person, herein pursuing the plan of the Athanasian Confession of Faith, which is divided in the same two-fold manner. It opens, therefore, with a reprobation of that unscriptural dogma, which asserts the absolute humanity of Christ, and rejects not only his miraculous conception, but also the manner of his purchasing our redemption by the all-sufficient sacrifice of himself, on which account he is here, in the words of the Apostle, called *the Lord who bought them*.

Page 439. Ver. 20.

\* \* , *M. P. and Citizen Tom Paine ;*

As the former of this pair of authors is not likely to

arrive at so much notoriety as the latter has acquired, it may not be amiss, by way of a mere memorandum, here to set down, that in the year 1796 he published a long didactic poem, written on Epicurean principles, called the Progress of Civil Society, with a curious exordium, in which he declared it equal folly to attempt to determine whether the material universe proceeded from chance, fatality, or a presiding almighty mind.

Page 442. Ver. 92.

*That those may read who never redde before,  
And those, who read already, may read more.*

This couplet is a parody on a well-known one of Parnel's, in his elegant translation of the Pervigilium Veneris :

Let those love now, &c.



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**HYMNS,**  
**AND**  
**SELECT PSALMS**  
**VERSIFIED.**

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**VOL. I.**

**H h**



## H Y M N

### BEFORE MORNING SERVICE.

**A** GAIN the day returns of holy rest  
Which, when he made the world, *Jehovah* blest ;  
When, like his own, he bade our labour cease,  
And all be piety, and all be peace.

While impious men despise the sage decree,  
From " vain deceit, and false philosophy ;"  
Let us its wisdom own, its blessings feel,  
Receive with gratitude, perform with zeal.

Let us devote this consecrated day  
To learn his will, and all we learn obey ;  
In pure Religion's hallow'd duties share,  
And join in penitence, and join in prayer.

So shall the God of Mercy pleas'd receive  
That only tribute, man has power to give ;  
So shall he hear, while fervently we raise  
Our choral harmony in hymns of praise.

#### CHORUS.

Father of Heaven, in whom our hopes confide,  
Whose pow'r defends us, and whose precepts guide ;  
In life our guardian, and in death our friend  
Glory supreme be thine till time shall end !

## H Y M N

### BEFORE EVENING SERVICE.

Soon will the evening star with silver ray  
Shed its mild lustre on this sacred day ;  
Resume we then, ere sleep and silence reign,  
The rites that holiness and Heav'n ordain.

Still let each awful truth our thoughts engage,  
That shines reveal'd on Inspiration's page :  
Nor those blest hours in vain amusements waste  
Which all, who lavish, shall lament at last.

Here humbly let us hope our Maker's smile  
Will crown with meet success our weekly toil ;  
And here, on each returning Sabbath join  
In prayer, in penitence, and praise divine.

#### CHORUS.

Father of Heaven, in whom our hopes confide,  
Whose pow'r defends us, and whose precepts guide ;  
In life our guardian, and in death our friend,  
Glory supreme be thine till time shall end !

This and the foregoing Hymn are adapted to an elegant movement of Pleyel, in his Opera twenty-third. They have been also set to music by Dr. BURNEY and Mr. M. CAMIDGE.

MORNING HYMN.

I.

**T**HAT, from refreshing sleep I rise  
With health and reason blest,  
Accept, great God, the sacrifice  
Of thanks that warms my breast.

II.

And O! may thy assisting grace  
Conduct me through the day,  
Lest Passion tempt, or Vice debase,  
Or Vanity betray.

III.

Correct each thought, each wish control  
Save those thy laws approve,  
And pour on my repentant soul  
Thy pardon, peace, and love.



EVENING HYMN.

I.

To sleep, Death's image, I resign  
This night my pillow'd head,  
Lord! let thy providence divine  
From danger guard my bed.

II.

But should I sleep to wake no more,  
Or, with to-morrow's sun,  
Have life thy goodness to adore,  
Father, thy will be done.

III.

This only be my constant prayer,  
That, when Life's pulse shall cease,  
My Soul, redeem'd by thee, may share  
Thy pardon, love, and peace.

These two last Hymns and the following Psalms versified are  
now first published.

PSALM I.

**H**APPY the man who scorns to join  
That impious race who truth deride,  
Who wisely makes the law divine  
His nightly study, daily guide.  
Like some fair tree, ordain'd to shade  
The margin of a plenteous stream,  
Sublime he waves his leafy head,  
His boughs with fruit maturely teem.  
Compar'd with his, each sickly bloom  
Of Vice and Folly swift decay,  
The passing gale conveys their doom,  
And whirls them, like the dust, away.  
The just, who make their God their guide,  
His presence only shall enjoy,  
The impious, who his laws deride,  
His wrath vindictive shall destroy.

PSALM VIII.

**G**UARDIAN and Governor divine !  
Who built thy glory's radiant shrine  
    Sublime above the solar blaze ;  
On earth how excellent thy name,  
Ev'n infant tongues, the foe to shame,  
    Thou arm'st with power to hymn thy praise.  
Dread Maker ! when my eyes behold  
Yon moon, yon planets girt in gold,  
    O what is man ! entranc'd I cry,  
O what his son ! that he should rise  
So near the inmates of the skies,  
    So near angelic dignity ?  
Thou bid'st creation own his sway,  
The beasts, the birds his power obey,  
    To him the savage race be tame,  
The sea her scaly troops resign—  
Guardian and Governor divine,  
    On earth how excellent thy name !

PSALM XV.

LORD ! who may to thy love aspire,  
Or hope to join thy heav'nly choir,  
But he who rests on thee his trust,  
Whose thoughts are pure, whose actions just,  
Whose word is truth, whose open heart  
Disdains the mean disguise of art,  
Who, swift to praise, as slow to blame,  
Guards as his own his neighbour's fame.  
Despising earthly pomp and state,  
He knows the good alone are great,  
If Danger wakes, or Justice sleeps,  
Alike, if given, his word he keeps.  
No gains luxurious swell his hoard,  
No guiltless blood embrues his sword,  
Whom no rewards to vice allure  
He, walking wisely, walketh sure.

PART OF PSALM XVIII.

(FROM V. 6 TO V. 11.)

**B**ESET with snares, oppress'd by foes,  
My soul implor'd Jehovah's aid,  
He heard; and to avenge my cause  
The rigour of his wrath display'd.

Earth trembled at her Maker's ire,  
Her mountains to their centre shook,  
His mouth breath'd forth consuming fire,  
His nostrils, clouds of livid smoke.

Downward he rush'd, in flame array'd,  
He bound the heav'ns, and at his nod  
Darkness and Night their horrors spread  
Beneath the footstep of the God.

By Cherubs borne, in glory shined  
He rode, and mock'd the lightning's pace,  
On ev'ry wing of ev'ry wind  
He flew, and fill'd the whole of space.

PSALM XLIII.

SEE how, assail'd by Fraud, and Force,  
Thy suppliant servant lies ;  
With justice arm'd, to check their course,  
My God, my Guardian rise !

Send forth thy Light, thy Truth reveal,  
And teach my steps to gain  
The summit of that sacred hill  
Where shines fair Salem's fane.

There at thy altar, placed among  
Thy consecrated choir,  
My voice shall pour the sacred song,  
My hand shall sweep the lyre.

When hopes like these, my Soul, are thine  
Why bear'st thou Sorrow's load ?  
'Rouse thee ! and hail with hymns divine  
Thy Guardian, and thy God.

PSALM LXVII.

**F**AR as extend the beams of day  
Thou, Lord! thy mercy shalt display,  
That all its saving pow'r may know,  
And ev'ry tongue with praises flow.

Thy statutes learn'd, our pardon seal'd,  
The wonders of thy grace reveal'd,  
In every heart thy love shall glow,  
From ev'ry tongue thy praises flow.

Yes, pitying Judge, paternal King,  
To thee a grateful world shall bring,  
From ev'ry zone that binds her sphere,  
A harvest rich of Faith sincere.

PSALM LXX.

**B**EHOLD me, Lord, forlorn, distress'd,  
By Rage pursued, by Power oppress'd,  
By friends forsaken, foes dismay'd,  
Divine Redeemer, haste thy aid.

From thee, just Arbiter of all !  
Send forth thy vengeance, and appal  
The sons of insolence and wrong,  
Of vengeful heart and taunting tongue.

From thee, mild Minister of Grace,  
Send joy to thy selected race,  
Who warm'd by rapture from above  
Shall magnify the name they love.

To me, forlorn, distress'd, dismay'd,  
Send swiftly thy celestial aid,  
And bid my soul, from sorrows free,  
Divine Redeemer, haste to thee.



PSALM XCIII.

**J**EHOVAH reigns ! his throne sublime,  
Beyond the bounds of space and time,  
Is fix'd on its eternal base :  
Rob'd in majestic state, he reigns,  
His power this globe of earth sustains,  
And mid his wonders mark'd its place.

Lo, when the floods exalt their waves,  
When Ocean roars through all his caves  
He speaks ; no more the tempest swells.  
O first, O universal cause !  
Eternal Justice fram'd thy laws ;  
Eternal Mercy with thee dwells.

PSALM C.

LET Earth, through all her realms, rejoice,  
And ev'ry land and language raise  
Its loftiest powers of verse and voice,  
To sound our great Creator's praise.

For not from choice or chance we came,  
But from his all-commanding word,  
And he that form'd, supports our frame,  
At once our Shepherd, and our God.

Haste then, where'er his temples stand,  
And through the hallow'd portals throng,  
There strike the harp with raptur'd hand,  
There lift the universal song.

His truth, his mercy be the theme,  
Which, unconfined by time or place,  
Their blessings pour, in endless stream,  
From age to age, from race to race.

A COMPRESSED  
METRICAL VERSION\*  
OF  
PSALM CIX.

I.

**G**OD of my praise, proclaim my wrongs ;  
For well thou know'st this wounded heart  
Has foster'd those, whose faithless tongues  
Their rancour at thy servant dart,  
And load me, while in prayer I mourn,  
With curses, calumny, and scorn.

II.

*Seize him, some impious Judge (they cry)*  
*Arraign him, Satan ! on his head*  
*Let vengeance fall, and instantly*  
*Exalt an alien in his stead ;*  
*While mendicants, and far from home,*  
*His widow'd wife and children roam.*

\* This title is employed to distinguish this mode of versifying both from literal translation and paraphrase. See Essay on Psalmody, page 182.

III.

*Extortion, Rapine, ruthless pair,  
Be yours to seize his wide domain,  
Nor lenient Pity drop a tear  
For him, or for his orphan train :  
And, 'till oblivion blots his name,  
Be his to bear his Parent's shame.*

IV.

*For why? rejoicing to distress,  
He vex'd the poor, the helpless slew ;  
Eager to curse, yet slow to bless ;  
Let curses then his steps pursue,  
Like water through his entrails spread,  
Like oil his every bone pervade.*

V.

*Be these his vesture, these enclose  
Each limb, and clinging gird him round,  
'Tis thus, great God, my vengeful foes  
With insults dire thy servant wound :  
That servant who, on suppliant knee,  
Father of mercy, mourns to thee.*

VI.

*O hear, and heal my bleeding heart,  
Ere, like the locust swept away  
By sudden storm, I hence depart,  
Or fitting shade at close of day :*

For see, through fasting how I pine ;  
How swift my health and strength decline !

VII.

All that behold me, shake in scorn  
Their head ; but thou, benignant Lord,  
Canst save the wretch howe'er forlorn ;  
Make then my foes thy power record ;  
Prove that their curse can ne'er oppress  
The Man thy mercy deigns to bless.

VIII.

Cloth'd with confusion, let them fly ;  
While I in grateful hymns prolong  
Thy praise, and fir'd with holy joy  
Hail thee, the Sovereign of my song,  
Whose arm shall save, whose shield secure  
From wrongs the righteous and the poor.

*July 1795.*

For a defence of this interpretation, see Dr. SYKES's introduction to his paraphrase on the Hebrews.—Mr. GREEN's translation of the Psalms.—Dr. LOWTH and KENNICOT, in a note (*in loco*) to MERRICK's Version, though MERRICK himself translates it otherwise. See also an Italian Version of MATTEI, who follows the interpretation of MARINO.—See these proofs collected in the Notes to Mr. KEAT's Sermon, preached at Chelsea, April 6th, 1794.

PSALM CXXI.

**T**H E hills, the heav'nly hills my eyes  
With zeal explore, with joy survey,  
Whence God, who form'd the world and skies,  
Supports my feet, directs my way.  
To those who his wise dictates keep,  
That God, that guardian ne'er will sleep.

No : ever wakeful, ever kind,  
He still will watch his favor'd race,  
No change of seasons they shall find,  
For, shaded by his saving grace,  
No noontide blaze shall scorch their head,  
No midnight chill infest their bed.

Where'er they move, where'er they rest,  
His smile of mercy, strength of pow'r,  
Through life, to death, shall shield their breast,  
And give new blessings every hour ;  
Not time itself his love can bound,  
It rolls in one eternal round.

PSALM CXXVIII.

**T**HAT Man enjoys his Maker's smile,  
Who humble, just, and good,  
Contented sees his daily toil  
Procure him daily food.  
His Wife, like the prolific vine,  
With luscious grapes o'erspread,  
Whose branches o'er his mansion twine,  
Shall bless his nuptial bed ;  
His Children, like the olives green,  
Shall bloom his board around,  
While, at their head, he sits serene,  
With bliss paternal crown'd.  
His race, a long progressive train,  
Through ages shall increase,  
And, bless'd by Sion's God, remain  
Possess'd of Israel's peace.

PSALM CXXX.

SUNK in the deep abyss of woe,  
To thee, my God! I cry,  
O, while my contrite tears o'erflow,  
In pity bend thine eye!

For when thy Justice sternly frowns,  
Who may behold and live?  
But Mercy mild that Justice crowns,  
And Mercy must forgive.

Thence, with firm faith, and holy fear,  
All impious doubts withdrawn,  
I wait thy saving grace to share,  
As watchmen wait the dawn.

That faith, that fear, through Israel spread,  
Shall dart a cheerful ray,  
Till full Redemption, o'er his head,  
Diffuse eternal day.



PSALM CXXXVII.

(IN ELEGIAC MEASURE.)

CAPTIVES of Babylon, we sought the vale,  
Where broad Euphrates rolls in crystal state,  
Hung our mute harps upon its poplars pale,  
And sat, dear Sion, weeping o'er thy fate !  
While our proud victors, in opprobrious vein,  
Cry'd, Slaves, arise ! your silent lyres resume,  
And swell your voices with that choral strain,  
Which echo'd sweet in Sion's ruin'd dome !  
What ! to an alien ear, an alien clime,  
Shall we repeat Jehovah's hallow'd song ?  
Ah ! sooner than profane that lay sublime,  
Cleave to its roots each fibre of our tongue ;  
Forget, my hand, each warbling chord to sweep,  
So prompt thy modulating powers to own,  
Or ere my Soul neglects her vows to keep,  
To sing in Salem's sacred courts alone.  
O think, great God, on Salem's fatal hour,  
When hemm'd around by Edom's impious race !  
They cried, as they beheld each falling tower,  
" Raze, instant raze it to its central base !"

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Blest be that future foe, by justice led,  
Who Israel's woes repeats in Edom's fall,  
Wreaks all her wrongs on Babylon's proud head,  
And flings her children 'gainst the shatter'd wall.

York, Oct. 26, 1795.

PSALM CL

**P**RAISE be to God, from earth below  
Where'er his temples rise,  
Praise in the heav'ns, where Seraphs glow  
In holy extacies.  
His power, his might, his deeds divine,  
Let sacred verse display,  
While strings, and pipes, and timbrels join  
Symphonious to the lay.  
Fill ye the trumpet's brazen throat,  
Awake the living lyre,  
While, pealing with majestic note,  
The organ leads the choir ;  
Let cymbals clear, in tuneful strife,  
Their strains with louder raise,  
And all that breathe the breath of life,  
Join in Jehovah's praise.

END OF VOL. I.

