

P O E M S,

B Y

WILLIAM COWPER, ESQ.

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V O L. II.

T H B  
T A S K,  
A  
P O E M,  
I N S I X B O O K S.

BY WILLIAM COWPER,  
OF THE INNER TEMPLE, ESQ.

Fit furculus arbor.

ANONYM.

To which are added,

BY THE SAME AUTHOR,

AN EPISTLE to JOSEPH HILL, Esq. TROCIANIUM, of a  
REVIEW of SCHOOLS, and the HISTORY of JOHN GELPIN.

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L O N D O N :

PRINTED FOR J. JOHNSON, N<sup>o</sup> 72, ST. PATRICK'S  
CHURCH-YARD:

1785.

## A D V E R T I S E M E N T.

**T**HE history of the following production is briefly this. A lady, fond of blank verse, demanded a poem of that kind from the author, and gave him the S O F A for a subject. He obeyed; and having much leisure, connected another subject with it; and pursuing the train of thought to which his situation and turn of mind led him, brought forth at length, instead of the trifle which he at first intended, a serious affair—a Volume.

In the poem, on the subject of education he would be very sorry to stand suspected of having aimed his censure at any particular school. His objections are such as naturally apply themselves to schools in general. If there were not, as for the most part there is, wilful neglect in those who manage them, and

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## A D V E R T I S E M E N T.

an omission even of such discipline as they are susceptible of, the objects are yet too numerous for minute attention; and the aching hearts of ten thousand parents mourning under the bitterest of all disappointments, attest the truth of the allegation. His quarrel therefore is with the mischief at large, and not with any particular instance of it.

## ARGUMENT

## ARGUMENT of the FIRST BOOK.

*Historical deduction of seats, from the stool to the Sofa.—  
A School-boys ramble.—A walk in the country.—The  
scene described.—Rural sounds as well as sights de-  
lightful.—Another walk.—Mistake concerning the  
charms of solitude, corrected.—Colonnades commended.  
—Alcove and the view from it.—The Wilderness.  
—The Grove.—The Thresher.—The necessity and the  
benefits of exercise.—The works of nature superior to  
and in some instances inimitable by art.—The wear-  
someness of what is commonly called a life of pleasure.  
—Change of scene sometimes expedient.—A common de-  
scribed, and the character of crazy Kate introduced  
upon it.—Gipsies.—The blessings of civilized life.—  
That state most favourable to virtue.—The South Sea  
Islanders compassionated, but chiefly Omai.—His pre-  
sent state of mind supposed.—Civilized life friendly to  
virtue, but not great cities.—Great cities, and London  
in particular, allowed their due praise, but censured.—  
Fete Champetre.—The book concludes with a reflec-  
tion on the fatal effects of dissipation and effeminacy  
upon our public measures.*

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B O O K I.

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T H E S O F A.

**I** S I N G the S O F A. I who lately sang  
Truth, Hope and Charity, and touch'd with awe  
The solemn chords, and with a trembling hand,  
Escap'd with pain from that advent'rous flight,  
Now seek repose upon an humbler theme ;  
The theme though humble, yet august and proud  
Th' occasion—for the Fair commands the song.

Time was, when cloathing sumptuous or for use,  
Save their own painted skins, our fires had none.

As yet black breeches were not; fatten smooth,

Or velvet soft, or plush with shaggy pile :  
 The hardy chief upon the rugged rock  
 Wash'd by the sea, or on the grav'ly bank  
 Thrown up by wintry torrents roaring loud,  
 Fearless of wrong, repos'd his weary strength.  
 Those barb'rous ages past, succeeded next  
 The birth-day of invention, weak at first,  
 Dull in design, and clumsy to perform.  
 Joint-stools were then created ; on three legs  
 Upborne they stood. Three legs upholding firm  
 A massy slab, in fashion square or round.  
 On such a stool immortal Alfred sat,  
 And sway'd the sceptre of his infant realms ;  
 And such in ancient halls and mansions drear  
 May still be seen, but perforated fore  
 And drill'd in holes the solid oak is found,  
 By worms voracious eating through and through.

At length a generation more refined  
 Improv'd the simple plan, made three legs four,

Gave them a twisted form vermicular,  
 And o'er the seat with plenteous wadding stuff'd  
 Induced a splendid cover green and blue,  
 Yellow and red, of tapestry richly wrought  
 And woven close, or needle-work sublime.  
 There might ye see the poney spread wide,  
 The full-blown rose, the shepherd and his lass,  
 Lap-dog and lambkin with black staring eyes,  
 And parrots with twin cherries in their beak.

Now came the cane from India, smooth and bright  
 With Nature's varnish; sever'd into stripes  
 That interlaced each other, these supplied  
 Of texture firm a lattice work, that braced  
 The new machine, and it became a chair.  
 But restless was the chair; the back erect  
 Distress'd the weary loins that felt no ease;  
 The slipp'ry seat betray'd the sliding part  
 That press'd it, and the feet hung dangling down,  
 Anxious in vain to find the distant floor.



These for the rich : the rest, whom fate had placed  
 In modest mediocrity, content  
 With base materials, fat on well tann'd hides  
 Obdurate and unyielding, glassy smooth,  
 With here and there a tuft of crimson yarn,  
 Or scarlet crewel in the cushion fixt :  
 If cushion might be call'd, what harder seem'd  
 Than the firm oak of which the frame was form'd.  
 No want of timber then was felt or fear'd  
 In Albion's happy isle. The umber stood  
 Pond'rous, and fixt by its own massy weight.  
 But elbows still were wanting ; these, some say,  
 An Alderman of Cripplegate contrived,  
 And some ascribe the invention to a priest  
 Burly and big and studious of his ease.  
 But rude at first, and not with easy slope  
 Receding wide, they press'd against the ribs,  
 And bruised the side, and elevated high  
 Taught the rais'd shoulders to invade the ears.  
 Long time elapsed or e'er our rugged fires  
Complain'd,

Complain'd, though incommodiouſly pent in,  
 And ill at eaſe behind. The Ladies firſt  
 'Gan murmur, as became the ſofter ſex.  
 Ingenious fancy, never better pleas'd  
 Than when employ'd t' accommodate the fair,  
 Heard the ſweet moan with pity, and deviſed  
 The ſoft ſettee ; one elbow at each end,  
 And in the miſt an elbow, it receiv'd  
 United yet divided, twain at once.  
 So fit two Kings of Brentford on one throne ;  
 And ſo two citizens who take the air  
 Cloſe pack'd and ſmiling in a chaiſe and one.  
 But relaxation of the languid frame  
 By ſoft recumbency of outſtretched limbs,  
 Was bliſs reſerved for happier days. So ſlow  
 The growth of what is excellent, ſo hard  
 T'attain perfection in this nether world.  
 Thus firſt neceſſity invented ſtools,  
 Convenience next ſuggeſted elbow chairs,  
 And luxury th' accompliſhed Sofa laſt.

The nurse sleeps sweetly, hired to watch the sick  
 Whom snoring she disturbs. As sweetly he  
 Who quits the coach-box at the midnight hour  
 To sleep within the carriage more secure,  
 His legs depending at the open door.  
 Sweet sleep enjoys the Curate in his desk,  
 The tedious Rector drawling o'er his head,  
 And sweet the Clerk below : but neither sleep  
 Of lazy Nurse, who snores the sick man dead,  
 Nor his who quits the box at midnight hour  
 To slumber in the carriage more secure,  
 Nor sleep enjoy'd by Curate in his desk,  
 Nor yet the dozings of the Clerk are sweet,  
 Compared with the repose the S O F A yields.

Oh may I live exempted (while I live  
 Guiltless of pamper'd appetite obscene)  
 From pangs arthritic that infest the toe  
 Of libertine excess. The S O F A suits  
 The gouty limb, 'tis true ; but gouty limb

Though

Though on a S O F A, may I never feel :  
 For I have loved the rural walk through lanes  
 Of grassy swarth close cropt by nibbling sheep,  
 And skirted thick with intertexture firm  
 Of thorny boughs : have loved the rural walk  
 O'er hills, through valleys, and by rivers brink,  
 E'er since a truant boy I pass'd my bounds  
 To enjoy a ramble on the banks of Thames.  
 And still remember, nor without regret  
 Of hours that sorrow since has much endear'd,  
 How oft, my slice of pocket store consumed,  
 Still hung'ring pennyless and far from home,  
 I fed on scarlet hips and stoney haws,  
 Or blushing crabs, or berries that imbosh  
 The bramble, black as jet, or sloes austere.  
 Hard fare ! but such as boyish appetite  
 Disdains not, nor the palate undepraved  
 By culinary arts, unfav'ry deems.  
 No S O F A then awaited my return,  
 Nor S O F A then I needed. Youth repairs

His wasted spirits quickly, by long toil  
 Incurring short fatigue; and though our years  
 As life declines, speed rapidly away,  
 And not a year but pilfers as he goes  
 Some youthful grace that age would gladly keep,  
 A tooth or auburn lock, and by degrees  
 Their length and color from the locks they spare;  
 Th' elastic spring of an unwearied foot  
 That mounts the stile with ease, or leaps the fence,  
 That play of lungs inhaling and again  
 Respiring freely the fresh air, that makes  
 Swift pace or steep ascent no toil to me,  
 Mine have not pilfer'd yet; nor yet impair'd  
 My relish of fair prospect; scenes that sooth'd  
 Or charm'd me young, no longer young, I find  
 Still soothing and of power to charm me still.  
 And witness, dear companion of my walks,  
 Whose arm this twentieth winter I perceive  
 Fast lock'd in mine, with pleasure such as love  
 Confirm'd by long experience of thy worth

And

And well-tryed virtues could alone inspire—  
 Witness a joy that thou hast doubled long.  
 Thou know'st my praise of nature most sincere,  
 And that my raptures are not conjured up  
 To serve occasions of poetic pomp,  
 But genuine, and art partner of them all.  
 How oft upon yon eminence, our pace  
 Has slacken'd to a pause, and we have borne  
 The ruffling wind scarce conscious that it blew,  
 While admiration feeding at the eye,  
 And still unfated, dwelt upon the scene.  
 Thence with what pleasure have we just discern'd  
 The distant plough slow-moving, and beside  
 His lab'ring team that swerv'd not from the track,  
 The sturdy swain diminish'd to a boy!  
 Here Ouse, slow winding through a level plain  
 Of spacious meads with cattle sprinkled o'er,  
 Conducts the eye along his sinuous course  
 Delighted. There, fast rooted in his bank  
 Stand, never overlook'd, our fav'rite elms

That

That screen the herdsman's solitary hut ;  
 While far beyond and overthwart the stream  
 That as with molten glass inlays the vale,  
 The sloping land recedes into the clouds ;  
 Displaying on its varied side, the grace  
 Of hedge-row beauties numberless, square tow'r,  
 Tall spire, from which the sound of cheerful bells  
 Just undulates upon the list'ning ear ;  
 Groves, heaths, and smoking villages remote.  
 Scenes must be beautiful which daily view'd  
 Please daily, and whose novelty survives  
 Long knowledge and the scrutiny of years.  
 Praise justly due to those that I describe.

Nor rural sights alone, but rural sounds  
 Exhilarate the spirit, and restore  
 The tone of languid Nature. Mighty winds  
 That sweep the skirt of some far-spreading wood  
 Of ancient growth, make music not unlike  
 The dash of ocean on his winding shore,

And

And lull the spirit while they fill the mind,  
 Unnumber'd branches waving in the blast,  
 And all their leaves fast flutt'ring, all at once.  
 Nor less composure waits upon the roar  
 Of distant floods, or on the softer voice  
 Of neighb'ring fountain, or of rills that slip  
 Through the cleft rock, and chiming as they fall  
 Upon loose pebbles, lose themselves at length  
 In matted grass, that with a livelier green  
 Betrays the secret of their silent course.  
 Nature inanimate employs sweet sounds,  
 But animated Nature sweeter still  
 To sooth and satisfy the human ear.  
 Ten thousand warblers cheer the day, and one  
 The live-long night : nor these alone whose notes  
 Nice-finger'd art must emulate in vain,  
 But cawing rooks, and kites that swim sublime  
 In still repeated circles, screaming loud,  
 The jay, the pie, and ev'n the boding owl  
 That hails the rising moon, have charms for me.

Sounds



Sounds inharmonious in themselves and harsh,  
 Yet heard in scenes where peace for ever reigns,  
 And only there, please highly for their sake.

Peace to the artist, whose ingenious thought  
 Devised the weather-house, that useful toy!  
 Fearless of humid air and gathering rains  
 Forth steps the man, an emblem of myself,  
 More delicate his tim'rous mate retires.  
 When Winter soaks the fields, and female feet  
 Too weak to struggle with tenacious clay,  
 Or ford the rivulets, are best at home,  
 The task of new discov'ries falls on me.  
 At such a season and with such a charge  
 Once went I forth, and found, till then unknown,  
 A cottage, whither oft we since repair:  
 'Tis perch'd upon the green-hill top, but close  
 Environ'd with a ring of branching elms  
 That overhang the thatch, itself unseen,  
 Peeps at the vale below; so thick beset

With foliage of such dark redundant growth,  
 I call'd the low-roof'd lodge the *peasant's nest*.  
 And hidden as it is, and far remote  
 From such unpleasing sounds as haunt the ear  
 In village or in town, the bay of curs  
 Incessant, clinking hammers, grinding wheels,  
 And infants clam'rous whether pleas'd or pain'd,  
 Oft have I wish'd the peaceful covert mine.  
 Here, I have said, at least I should possess  
 The poet's treasure, silence, and indulge  
 The dreams of fancy, tranquil and secure.  
 Vain thought! the dweller in that still retreat  
 Dearly obtains the refuge it affords.  
 Its elevated scite forbids the wretch  
 To drink sweet waters of the chrystal well;  
 He dips his bowl into the weedy ditch,  
 And heavy-laden brings his bev'rage home  
 Far-fetch'd and little worth; nor seldom waits,  
 Dependent on the baker's punctual call,  
 To hear his creaking panniers at the door,

Angry and sad and his last crust consumed.

So farewell envy of the *peasant's nest*.

If solitude make scant the means of life,

Society for me ! thou seeming sweet,

Be still a pleasing object in my view,

My visit still, but never mine abode.

Not distant far, a length of colonade  
 Invites us. Monument of ancient taste,  
 Now scorn'd, but worthy of a better fate.  
 Our fathers knew the value of a screen  
 From sultry suns, and in their shaded walks  
 And long-protracted bow'rs, enjoy'd at noon  
 The gloom and coolness of declining day.  
 We bear our shades about us ; self depriv'd  
 Of other screen, the thin umbrella spread,  
 And range an Indian waste without a tree.  
 Thanks to \* Benevolus—he spares me yet

\* John Courtney Throckmorton, Esq. of Weston Underwood.

These chefnuts ranged in corresponding lines,  
 And though himself so polish'd, still reprieves  
 The obsolete prolixity of shade.

Descending now (but cautious, lest too fast)  
 A sudden steep, upon a rustic bridge  
 We pass a gulph in which the willows dip  
 Their pendent boughs, stooping as if to drink.  
 Hence ancle deep in moss and flow'ry thyme  
 We mount again, and feel at ev'ry step  
 Our foot half sunk in hillocks green and soft,  
 Rais'd by the mole, the miner of the soil.  
 He not unlike the great ones of mankind,  
 Disfigures earth, and plotting in the dark  
 Toils much to earn a monumental pile,  
 That may record the mischiefs he has done.

The summit gain'd, behold the proud alcove  
 That crowns it! yet not all its pride secures  
 The grand retreat from injuries impress'd

By

By rural carvers, who with knives deface  
 The pannels, leaving an obscure rude name  
 In characters uncouth, and spelt amiss.  
 So strong the zeal t' immortalize himself  
 Beats in the breast of man, that ev'n a few  
 Few transient years won from th' abyss abhorr'd  
 Of blank oblivion, seem a glorious prize,  
 And even to a clown. Now roves the eye,  
 And posted on this speculative height  
 Exults in its command. The sheep-fold here  
 Pours out its fleecy tenants o'er the glebe.  
 At first, progressive as a stream, they seek  
 The middle field; but scatter'd by degrees  
 Each to his choice, soon whiten all the land.  
 There, from the sun-burnt hay-field homeward creeps  
 The loaded wain, while lighten'd of its charge  
 The wain that meets it, passes swiftly by,  
 The boorish driver leaning o'er his team  
 Vocif'rous, and impatient of delay.  
 Nor less attractive is the woodland scene

Diversified with trees of ev'ry growth  
 Alike yet various. Here the grey smooth trunks  
 Of ash or lime, or beech, distinctly shine,  
 Within the twilight of their distant shades;  
 There lost behind a rising ground, the wood  
 Seems sunk, and shorten'd to its topmost boughs.  
 No tree in all the grove but has its charms,  
 Though each its hue peculiar; paler some,  
 And of a wannish grey; the willow such  
 And poplar, that with silver lines his leaf,  
 And ash far-stretching his umbrageous arm.  
 Of deeper green the elm; and deeper still,  
 Lord of the woods, the long-surviving oak.  
 Some glossy-leav'd and shining in the sun,  
 The maple, and the beech of oily nuts  
 Prolific, and the lime at dewy eve  
 Diffusing odors: nor unnoted pass  
 The sycamore, capricious in attire,  
 Now green, now tawny, and 'ere autumn yet  
 Have changed the woods, in scarlet honors bright.

O'er these, but far beyond, (a spacious map  
 Of hill and valley interpos'd between)  
 The Ouse, dividing the well water'd land,  
 Now glitters in the sun, and now retires,  
 As bashful, yet impatient to be seen.

Hence the declivity is sharp and short,  
 And such the re-ascent ; between them weeps  
 A little Naiad her improv'rish'd urn  
 All summer long, which winter fills again.  
 The folded gates would bar my progress now,  
 But that the \*Lord of this inclosed demesne,  
 Communicative of the good he owns,  
 Admits me to a share : the guiltless eye  
 Commits no wrong, nor wastes what it enjoys.  
 Refreshing change ! where now the blazing sun ?  
 By short transition we have lost his glare  
 And stepp'd at once into a cooler clime.  
 Ye fallen avenues ! once more I mourn

\* See the foregoing note.

Your fate unmerited, once more rejoice  
 That yet a remnant of your race survives.  
 How airy and how light the graceful arch,  
 Yet awful as the consecrated roof  
 Re-echoing pious anthems ! while beneath  
 The chequer'd earth seems restless as a flood  
 Brush'd by the wind. So sportive is the light  
 Shot through the boughs, it dances as they dance,  
 Shadow and sunshine intermingling quick,  
 And darkning and enlightning, as the leaves  
 Play wanton, ev'ry moment, ev'ry spot.

And now with nerves new-brac'd and spirits cheer'd  
 We tread the wilderness, whose well-roll'd walks  
 With curvature of flow and easy sweep,  
 Deception innocent—give ample space  
 To narrow bounds. The grove receives us next ;  
 Between the upright shafts of whose tall elms  
 We may discern the thresher at his task.  
 Thump after thump, resounds the constant flail,



That seems to swing uncertain, and yet falls  
 Full on the destin'd ear. Wide flies the chaff,  
 The rustling straw sends up a frequent mist  
 Of atoms sparkling in the noon-day beam.  
 Come hither, ye that press your beds of down  
 And sleep not : see him sweating o'er his bread  
 Before he eats it.—'Tis the primal curse,  
 But soften'd into mercy ; made the pledge  
 Of chearful days, and nights without a groan.

By ceaseless action, all that is, subsists.  
 Constant rotation of th' unwearied wheel  
 That nature rides upon, maintains her health,  
 Her beauty, her fertility. She dreads  
 An instant's pause, and lives but while she moves.  
 Its own revolvency upholds the world.  
 Winds from all quarters agitate the air,  
 And fit the limpid element for use,  
 Else noxious : oceans, rivers, lakes, and streams  
 All feel the fresh'ning impulse, and are cleansed

By restless undulation ; ev'n the oak  
 Thrives by the rude concussion of the storm ;  
 He seems indeed indignant, and to feel  
 Th' impression of the blast with proud disdain,  
 Frowning as if in his unconscious arm  
 He held the thunder. But the monarch owes  
 His firm stability to what he scorns,  
 More fixt below, the more disturb'd above.  
 The law by which all creatures else are bound,  
 Binds man the lord of all. Himself derives  
 No mean advantage from a kindred cause,  
 From strenuous toil his hours of sweetest ease.  
 The sedentary stretch their lazy length  
 When custom bids, but no refreshment find,  
 For none they need : the languid eye, the cheek  
 Deserted of its bloom, the flaccid, shrunk,  
 And wither'd muscle, and the vapid soul,  
 Reproach their owner with that love of rest  
 To which he forfeits ev'n the rest he loves.  
 Not such th' alert and active. Measure life

By its true worth, the comforts it affords,  
 And theirs alone seems worthy of the name.  
 Good health, and its associate in the most,  
 Good temper; spirits prompt to undertake,  
 And not soon spent, though in an arduous task;  
 The pow'rs of fancy and strong thought are theirs;  
 Ev'n age itself seems privileged in them  
 With clear exemption from its own defects.  
 A sparkling eye beneath a wrinkled front  
 The vet'ran shows, and gracing a grey beard  
 With youthful smiles, descends toward the grave  
 Sprightly, and old almost without decay,

Like a coy maiden, ease, when courted most,  
 Farthest retires—an idol, at whose shrine  
 Who oft'nest sacrifice are favor'd least,  
 The love of Nature, and the scenes she draws  
 Is Nature's dictate. Strange! there should be found  
 Who self-imprison'd in their proud saloons,  
 Renounce the odors of the open field

For

For the unscented fictions of the loom.  
 Who satisfied with only pencil'd scenes,  
 Prefer to the performance of a God  
 Th' inferior wonders of an artist's hand.  
 Lovely indeed the mimic works of art,  
 But Nature's works far lovelier. I admire—  
 None more admires the painter's magic skill,  
 Who shews me that which I shall never see,  
 Conveys a distant country into mine,  
 And throws Italian light on English walls.  
 But imitative strokes can do no more  
 Than please the eye, sweet Nature ev'ry sense.  
 The air salubrious of her lofty hills,  
 The chearing fragrance of her dewy vales  
 And music of her woods—no works of man  
 May rival these; these all bespeak a power  
 Peculiar, and exclusively her own.  
 Beneath the open sky she spreads the feast;  
 'Tis free to all—'tis ev'ry day renew'd,  
 Who scorns it, starves deservedly at home.

He does not scorn it, who imprison'd long  
 In some unwholesome dungeon, and a prey  
 To fallow sickness, which the vapors dank  
 And clammy of his dark abode have bred,  
 Escapes at last to liberty and light.

His cheek recovers soon its healthful hue,  
 His eye relumines its extinguish'd fires,  
 He walks, he leaps, he runs—is wing'd with joy,  
 And riots in the sweets of ev'ry breeze.

He does not scorn it, who has long endur'd  
 A fever's agonies, and fed on drugs.

Nor yet the mariner, his blood inflamed  
 With acrid salts ; his very heart athirst  
 To gaze at Nature in her green array.

Upon the ship's tall side he stands, possess'd  
 With visions prompted by intense desire ;

Fair fields appear below, such as he left  
 Far distant, such as he would die to find—

He seeks them headlong, and is seen no more.

The spleen is seldom felt where Flora reigns ;  
 The low'ring eye, the petulance, the frown,  
 And sullen sadness that o'ershade, distort,  
 And mar the face of beauty, when no cause  
 For such immeasurable woe appears, \*  
 These Flora banishes, and gives the fair  
 Sweet smiles and bloom less transient than her own.  
 It is the constant revolution stale  
 And tasteless, of the same repeated joys,  
 That palis and fatiates, and makes languid life  
 A pedlar's pack, that bows the bearer down.  
 Health suffers, and the spirits ebb; the heart  
 Recoils from its own choice—at the full feast  
 Is famish'd—finds no music in the song,  
 No smartness in the jest, and wonders why.  
 Yet thousands still desire to journey on,  
 Though halt and weary of the path they tread.  
 The paralytic who can hold her cards  
 But cannot play them, borrows a friend's hand  
 To deal and shuffle, to divide and sort

Her

Her mingled suits and sequences, and fits  
 Spectatrefs both and spectacle, a sad  
 And filent cypher, while her proxy plays.  
 Others are dragg'd into the crowded room  
 Between fupporters ; and once feated, fit  
 Through downright inability to rife,  
 'Till the ftout bearers lift the corpfè again.  
 Thefe fpeak a loud memento. Yet ev'n thefe  
 Themfelves love life, and cling to it, as he  
 That overhangs a torrent, to a twig.  
 They love it, and yet loath it ; fear to die,  
 Yet fcorn the purpofes for which they live.  
 Then wherefore not renounce them ? No—the dread,  
 The flavifh dread of folitude, that breeds  
 Reflection and remorse, the fear of fhame,  
 And their invet'rate habits, all forbid.

Whom call we gay ? That honor has been long  
 The boast of mere pretenders to the name.  
 The innocent are gay —the lark is gay

That

That dries his feathers faturate with dew  
 Beneath the rosy cloud, while yet the beams  
 Of day-spring overshoot his humble nest.  
 The peasant too, a witness of his song,  
 Himself a songster, is as gay as he.  
 But save me from the gaiety of those  
 Whose head-aches nail them to a noon-day bed;  
 And save me too from theirs whose haggard eyes  
 Flash desperation, and betray their pangs  
 For property stripp'd off by cruel chance;  
 From gaiety that fills the bones with pain,  
 The mouth with blasphemy, the heart with woe.

The earth was made so various, that the mind  
 Of desultory man, studious of change,  
 And pleas'd with novelty, might be indulged.  
 Prospects however lovely may be seen  
 'Till half their beauties fade; the weary sight,  
 Too well acquainted with their smiles, slides off  
 Fastidious, seeking less familiar scenes.

Then



Then snug inclosures in the shelter'd vale,  
 Where frequent hedges intercept the eye,  
 Delight us, happy to renounce a while,  
 Not senseless of its charms, what still we love,  
 That such short absence may endear it more.  
 Then forests, or the savage rock may please,  
 That hides the sea-mew in his hollow clefts  
 Above the reach of man : his hoary head  
 Conspicuous many a league, the mariner  
 Bound homeward, and in hope already there,  
 Greets with three cheers exulting. At his waist  
 A girdle of half-wither'd shrubs he shows,  
 And at his feet the baffled billows die.  
 The common overgrown with fern, and rough  
 With prickly goss, that shapeless and deform  
 And dang'rous to the touch, has yet its bloom  
 And decks itself with ornaments of gold,  
 Yields no unpleasing ramble ; there the turf  
 Smells fresh, and rich in odorif'rous herbs

And

And fungous fruits of earth, regales the sense  
With luxury of unexpected sweets.

There often wanders one, whom better days  
Saw better clad, in cloak of fatten trimm'd  
With lace, and hat with splendid ribband bound.  
A serving maid was she, and fell in love  
With one who left her, went to sea and died.  
Her fancy followed him through foaming waves  
To distant shores, and she would sit and weep  
At what a sailor suffers ; fancy too  
Delusive most where warmest wishes are,  
Would oft anticipate his glad return,  
And dream of transports she was not to know.  
She heard the doleful tidings of his death,  
And never smil'd again. And now she roams  
The dreary waste ; there spends the livelong day,  
And there, unless when charity forbids,  
The livelong night. A tatter'd apron hides,  
Worn as a cloak, and hardly hides a gown

More

More tatter'd still ; and both but ill conceal  
 A bosom heaved with never-ceasing sighs.  
 She begs an idle pin of all she meets,  
 And hoards them in her sleeve ; but needful food,  
 Though press'd with hunger oft, or comelier cloaths,  
 Though pinch'd with cold, asks never.—Kate is craz'd.

I see a column of slow-rising smoke  
 O'ertop the lofty wood that skirts the wild.  
 A vagabond and useless tribe there eat  
 Their miserable meal. A kettle flung  
 Between two poles upon a stick transverse,  
 Receives the morsel ; flesh obscene of dog,  
 Or vermin, or at best, of cock purloin'd  
 From his accustom'd perch. Hard-faring race !  
 They pick their fuel out of ev'ry hedge,  
 Which kindled with dry leaves, just saves unquench'd  
 The spark of life. The sportive wind blows wide  
 Their flutt'ring rags, and shows a tawny skin,  
 The vellum of the pedigree they claim.

Great skill have they in palmistry, and more  
 To conjure clean away the gold they touch,  
 Conveying worthless dross into its place.  
 Loud when they beg, dumb only when they steal.  
 Strange! that a creature rational, and cast  
 In human mould, should brutalize by choice  
 His nature, and though capable of arts  
 By which the world might profit and himself,  
 Self-banish'd from society, prefer  
 Such squalid sloth to honorable toil.  
 Yet even these, though feigning sickness oft  
 They swathe the forehead, drag the limping limb  
 And vex their flesh with artificial sores,  
 Can change their whine into a mirthful note  
 When safe occasion offers, and with dance  
 And music of the bladder and the bag  
 Beguile their woes and make the woods resound.  
 Such health and gaiety of heart enjoy  
 The houseless rovers of the sylvan world;  
 And breathing wholesome air, and wand'ring much,

Need other physic none to heal th' effects  
Of loathsome diet, penury, and cold.

Blest he, though undistinguish'd from the crowd  
By wealth or dignity, who dwells secure  
Where man, by nature fierce, has laid aside  
His fierceness, having learnt, though slow to learn,  
The manners and the arts of civil life.  
His wants, indeed, are many ; but supply  
Is obvious ; placed within the easy reach  
Of temp'rate wishes and industrious hands.  
Here virtue thrives as in her proper soil ;  
Not rude and furly, and beset with thorns,  
And terrible to fight, as when she springs,  
(If e'er she spring spontaneous) in remote  
And barb'rous climes, where violence prevails,  
And strength is lord of all ; but gentle, kind,  
By culture tam'd, by liberty refresh'd,  
And all her fruits by radiant truth matur'd.  
War and the chace engross the savage whole.

War follow'd for revenge, or to supplant  
 The envied tenants of some happier spot,  
 The chace for sustenance, precarious trust !  
 His hard condition with severe constraint  
 Binds all his faculties, forbids all growth  
 Of wisdom, proves a school in which he learns  
 Sly circumvention, unrelenting hate,  
 Mean self-attachment, and scarce aught beside.  
 Thus fare the shiv'ring natives of the north,  
 And thus the rangers of the western world  
 Where it advances far into the deep,  
 Towards th' Antarctic. Ev'n the favor'd isles  
 So lately found, although the constant sun  
 Cheer all their seasons with a grateful smile,  
 Can boast but little virtue ; and inert  
 Through plenty, lose in morals, what they gain  
 In manners, victims of luxurious ease.  
 These therefore I can pity, placed remote  
 From all that science traces, art invents,  
 Or inspiration teaches ; and inclosed

In boundless oceans never to be pass'd  
 By navigators uninformed as they,  
 Or plough'd perhaps by British bark again,  
 But far beyond the rest, and with most cause  
 Thee, gentle \* savage ! whom no love of thee  
 Or thine, but curiosity perhaps,  
 Or else vain glory, prompted us to draw  
 Forth from thy native bow'rs, to show thee here  
 With what superior skill we can abuse  
 The gifts of providence, and squander life.  
 The dream is past. And thou hast found again  
 Thy cocoas and bananas, palms and yams,  
 And homestall thatch'd with leaves. But hast thou found  
 Their former charms ? And having seen our state,  
 Our palaces, our ladies, and our pomp  
 Of equipage, our gardens, and our sports,  
 And heard our music ; are thy simple friends,  
 Thy simple fare, and all thy plain delights  
 As dear to thee as once ? And have thy joys  
 Lost nothing by comparison with ours ?

Rude

Rude as thou art (for we return'd thee rude  
 And ignorant, except of outward show)  
 I cannot think thee yet so dull of heart  
 And spiritless, as never to regret  
 Sweets tasted here, and left as soon as known.  
 Methinks I see thee straying on the beach,  
 And asking of the surge that bathes thy foot  
 If ever it has wash'd our distant shore.  
 I see thee weep, and thine are honest tears,  
 A patriot's for his country. Thou art sad  
 At thought of her forlorn and abject state,  
 From which no power of thine can raise her up.  
 Thus fancy paints thee, and though apt to err,  
 Perhaps errs little, when she paints thee thus.  
 She tells me too that duely ev'ry morn  
 Thou climb'st the mountain top, with eager eye  
 Exploring far and wide the wat'ry waste  
 For sight of ship from England. Ev'ry speck  
 Seen in the dim horizon, turns thee pale  
 With conflict of contending hopes and fears.



But comes at last the dull and dusky eve,  
 And sends thee to thy cabin, well-prepar'd  
 To dream all night of what the day denied.  
 Alas ! expect it not. We found no bait  
 To tempt us in thy country. Doing good,  
 Disinterested good, is not our trade.  
 We travel far 'tis true, but not for nought ;  
 And must be brib'd to compass earth again  
 By other hopes and richer fruits than yours.

But though true worth and virtue, in the mild  
 And genial foil of cultivated life  
 Thrive most, and may perhaps thrive only there,  
 Yet not in cities oft. In proud and gay  
 And gain devoted cities ; thither flow,  
 As to a common and most noisome sewer,  
 The dregs and fæculence of ev'ry land.  
 In cities foul example on most minds  
 Begets its likeness. Rank abundance breeds  
 In gross and pamper'd cities sloth and lust,

And

And wantonness and gluttonous excess.  
 In cities, vice is hidden with most ease,  
 Or seen with least reproach; and virtue taught  
 By frequent lapse, can hope no triumph there  
 Beyond th' atchievement of successful flight.  
 I do confess them nurseries of the arts,  
 In which they flourish most. Where in the beams  
 Of warm encouragement, and in the eye  
 Of public note they reach their perfect size.  
 Such London is, by taste and wealth proclaim'd  
 The fairest capital of all the world,  
 By riot and incontinence the worst.  
 There, touch'd by Reynolds, a dull blank becomes  
 A lucid mirror, in which nature sees  
 All her reflected features. Bacon there  
 Gives more than female beauty to a stone,  
 And Chatham's eloquence to marble lips.  
 Nor does the chissel occupy alone  
 The pow'rs of sculpture, but the style as much;  
 Each province of her art her equal care.

With nice incision of her guided steel  
 She ploughs a brazen field, and clothes a foil  
 So sterile with what charms foe'er she will,  
 The richest scen'ry and the loveliest forms.  
 Where finds philosophy her eagle eye  
 With which she gazes at yon burning disk  
 Undazzled, and detects and counts his spots ?  
 In London ; where her implements exact  
 With which she calculates computes and scans  
 All distance, motion, magnitude, and now  
 Measures an atom, and now girds a world ?  
 In London ; where has commerce such a mart,  
 So rich, so throng'd, so drain'd, and so supplied  
 As London, opulent, enlarged, and still  
 Increasing London ? Babylon of old  
 Not more the glory of the earth, than she  
 A more accomplish'd world's chief glory now.

She has her praise. Now mark a spot or two  
 That so much beauty would do well to purge ;

And

And show this queen of cities, that so fair  
 May yet be foul, so witty, yet not wife.  
 It is not seemly, nor of good report  
 That she is slack in discipline. More prompt  
 T'avenge than to prevent the breach of law.  
 That she is rigid in denouncing death  
 On petty robbers, and indulges life  
 And liberty, and oft-times honor too  
 To peculators of the public gold.  
 That thieves at home must hang; but he that puts  
 Into his overgorged and bloated purse  
 The wealth of Indian provinces, escapes.  
 Nor is it well, nor can it come to good,  
 That through profane and infidel contempt  
 Of holy writ, she has presum'd t'annul  
 And abrogate, as roundly as she may,  
 The total ordonance and will of God;  
 Advancing fashion to the post of truth,  
 And cent'ring all authority in modes  
 And customs of her own, till sabbath rites

Have dwindled into unrespected forms,  
 And knees and hassocks are well-nigh divorced.

God made the country, and man made the town.  
 What wonder then, that health and virtue, gifts  
 That can alone make sweet the bitter draught  
 That life holds out to all, should most abound  
 And least be threatened in the fields and groves ?  
 Possess ye therefore, ye who borne about  
 In chariots and sedans, know no fatigue  
 But that of idleness, and taste no scenes  
 But such as art contrives, possess ye still  
 Your element ; there only, ye can shine,  
 There only minds like yours can do no harm.  
 Our groves were planted to console at noon  
 The pensive wand'rer in their shades. At eve  
 The moon-beam sliding softly in between  
 The sleeping leaves, is all the light they wish,  
 Birds warbling all the music. We can spare  
 The splendor of your lamps, they but eclipse

Our softer satellite. Your songs confound  
Our more harmonious notes. The thrush departs  
Scared, and th' offended nightingale is mute.  
There is a public mischief in your mirth,  
It plagues your country. Folly such as your's  
Graced with a sword, and worthier of a fan,  
Has made, which enemies could ne'er have done,  
Our arch of empire, steadfast but for you,  
A mutilated structure, soon to fall.

## ARGUMENT of the SECOND BOOK.

*Which opens with reflections suggested by the conclusion of the former.—Peace among the nations recommended on the ground of their common fellowship in sorrow.—Prodigies enumerated.—Sicilian earthquakes—Man rendered obnoxious to these calamities by sin.—God the agent in them.—The philosophy that stops at secondary causes, reproved.—Our own late miscarriages accounted for.—Satirical notice taken of our trips to Fontainbleau —But the pulpit, not satire, the proper engine of reformation.—The Reverend Advertiser of engraved sermons.—Petit maitre parson.—The good preacher.—Picture of a theatrical clerical coxcomb.—Story-tellers and jesters in the pulpit reproved.—Apostrophé to popular applause.—Retailers of ancient philosophy expostulated with.—Sum of the whole matter.—Effects of sacerdotal mismanagement on the laity.—Their folly and extravagance.—The mischiefs of profusion.—Profusion itself, with all its consequent evils, ascribed as to its principal cause, to the want of discipline in the Universities.*

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B O O K II.

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T H E T I M E - P I E C E .

O H for a lodge in some vast wilderness,  
Some boundless contiguity of shade,  
Where rumour of oppression and deceit,  
Of unsuccessful or successful war  
Might never reach me more. My ear is pain'd,  
My soul is sick with ev'ry day's report  
Of wrong and outrage with which earth is fill'd.  
There is no flesh in man's obdurate heart,  
It does not feel for man. The nat'ral bond  
Of brotherhood is sever'd as the flax  
That falls asunder at the touch of fire.



He finds his fellow guilty of a skin  
 Not colour'd like his own, and having pow'r  
 T' inforce the wrong, for such a worthy cause  
 Dooms and devotes him as his lawful prey.  
 Lands intersected by a narrow frith  
 Abhor each other. Mountains interposed,  
 Make enemies of nations who had else  
 Like kindred drops been mingled into one.  
 Thus man devotes his brother, and destroys ;  
 And worse than all, and most to be deplored  
 As human nature's broadest, foulest blot,  
 Chains him, and tasks him, and exacts his sweat  
 With stripes, that mercy with a bleeding heart  
 Weeps when she sees inflicted on a beast.  
 Then what is man ? And what man seeing this,  
 And having human feelings, does not blush  
 And hang his head, to think himself a man ?  
 I would not have a slave to till my ground,  
 To carry me, to fan me while I sleep,  
 And tremble when I wake, for all the wealth  
 That sinews bought and sold have ever earn'd.

No: dear as freedom is, and in my heart's  
 Just estimation priz'd above all price,  
 I had much rather be myself the slave  
 And wear the bonds, than fasten them on him.  
 We have no slaves at home.—Then why abroad?  
 And they themselves once ferried o'er the wave  
 That parts us, are emancipate and loos'd.  
 Slaves cannot breathe in England; if their lungs  
 Receive our air, that moment they are free,  
 They touch our country and their shackles fall.  
 That's noble, and bespeaks a nation proud  
 And jealous of the blessing. Spread it then,  
 And let it circulate through ev'ry vein  
 Of all your empire. That where Britain's power  
 Is felt, mankind may feel her mercy too.

Sure there is need of social intercourse,  
 Benevolence and peace and mutual aid  
 Between the nations, in a world that seems  
 To toll the death-bell of its own decease,

And

And by the voice of all its elements  
 To preach the gen'ral doom. \* When were the winds  
 Let slip with such a warrant to destroy,  
 When did the waves so haughtily o'erleap  
 Their ancient barriers, deluging the dry ?  
 Fires from beneath, and meteors † from above  
 Portentous, unexampled, unexplained,  
 Have kindled beacons in the skies, and th' old  
 And crazy earth has had her shaking fits  
 More frequent, and foregone her usual rest.  
 Is it a time to wrangle, when the props  
 And pillars of our planet seem to fail,  
 And Nature ‡ with a dim and sickly eye  
 To wait the close of all ? But grant her end  
 More distant, and that prophecy demands  
 A longer respite, unaccomplished yet ;

Still

\* Alluding to the late calamities at Jamaica.

† August 18, 1783.

‡ Alluding to the fog that covered both Europe and Asia during the whole summer of 1783.

Still they are frowning signals, and bespeak  
 Displeasure in his breast who finites the earth  
 Or heals it, makes it languish or rejoice.  
 And 'tis but seemly, that where all deserve  
 And stand exposed by common peccancy  
 To what no few have felt, there should be peace,  
 And brethren in calamity should love.

Alas for Sicily! rude fragments now  
 Lie scatter'd where the shapely column stood.  
 Her palaces are dust. In all her streets  
 The voice of singing and the sprightly chord  
 Are silent. Revelry and dance and show  
 Suffer a syncope and solemn pause,  
 While God performs upon the trembling stage  
 Of his own works, his dreadful part alone.  
 How does the earth receive him?—With what signs  
 Of gratulation and delight, her king?  
 Pours she not all her choicest fruits abroad,  
 Her sweetest flow'rs, her aromatic gums,

Disclosing paradise where'er he treads ?

She quakes at his approach. Her hollow womb

Conceiving thunders, through a thousand deeps

And fiery caverns roars beneath his foot.

The hills move lightly and the mountains smoke,

For he has touch'd them. From th' extremest point

Of elevation down into th' abyfs,

His wrath is bufy and his frown is felt.

The rocks fall headlong and the vallies rife,

The rivers die into offensive pools,

And charged with putrid verdure, breathe a grofs

And mortal nuisance into all the air.

What folid was, by transformation ftrange

Grows fluid, and the fixt and rooted earth

Tormented into billows heaves and fwells,

Or with vortiginous and hideous whirl

Sucks down its prey infatiable. Immense

The tumult and the overthrow, the pangs

And agonies of human and of brute

Multitudes, fugitive on ev'ry fide,

And

And fugitive in vain. The sylvan scene  
 Migrates uplifted, and with all its soil  
 Alighting in far distant fields, finds out  
 A new possessor, and survives the change.  
 Ocean has caught the frenzy, and upwrought  
 To an enormous and o'erbearing height,  
 Not by a mighty wind, but by that voice  
 Which winds and waves obey, invades the shore  
 Resistless. Never such a sudden flood,  
 Upridged so high, and sent on such a charge,  
 Possess'd an inland scene. Where now the throng  
 That press'd the beach and hasty to depart  
 Look'd to the sea for safety? They are gone,  
 Gone with the reflux wave into the deep,  
 A prince with half his people. Ancient tow'rs,  
 And roofs embattled high, the gloomy scenes  
 Where beauty oft and letter'd worth consume  
 Life in the unproductive shades of death,  
 Fall prone; the pale inhabitants come forth,  
 And happy in their unforeseen release

From all the rigors of restraint, enjoy  
 The terrors of the day that sets them free.  
 Who then that has thee, would not hold thee fast  
 Freedom ! whom they that lose thee, so regret,  
 That ev'n a judgment making way for thee,  
 Seems in their eyes, a mercy, for thy sake.

Such evil sin hath wrought ; and such a flame  
 Kindled in heaven, that it burns down to earth,  
 And in the furious inquest that it makes  
 On God's behalf, lays waste his fairest works.  
 The very elements, though each be meant  
 The minister of man, to serve his wants,  
 Conspire against him. With his breath, he draws  
 A plague into his blood. And cannot use  
 Life's necessary means, but he must die.  
 Storms rise t' o'erwhelm him : or if stormy winds  
 Rise not, the waters of the deep shall rise,  
 And needing none assistance of the storm,  
 Shall roll themselves ashore, and reach him there.

The earth shall shake him out of all his holds,  
 Or make his house his grave. Nor so content,  
 Shall counterfeit the motions of the flood,  
 And drown him in her dry and dusty gulphs.  
 What then—were they the wicked above all,  
 And we the righteous, whose fast-anchor'd isle  
 Moved not, while their's was rock'd like a light skiff,  
 The sport of ev'ry wave? No: none are clear,  
 And none than we more guilty. But where all  
 Stand chargeable with guilt, and to the shafts  
 Of wrath obnoxious, God may chuse his mark.  
 May punish, if he please, the less, to warn  
 The more malignant. If he spar'd not them,  
 Tremble and be amazed at thine escape  
 Far guiltier England, lest he spare not thee.

Happy the man who sees a God employed  
 In all the good and ill that checquer life!  
 Resolving all events with their effects  
 And manifold results, into the will



And arbitration wife of the Supreme,  
 Did not his eye rule all things, and intend  
 The least of our concerns (since from the least  
 The greatest oft originate) could chance  
 Find place in his dominion, or dispose  
 One lawless particle to thwart his plan,  
 Then God might be surprized, and unforeseen  
 Contingence might alarm him, and disturb  
 The smooth and equal course of his affairs.  
 This truth, philosophy, though eagle-eyed  
 In nature's tendencies, oft overlooks,  
 And having found his instrument, forgets  
 Or disregards, or more presumptuous still  
 Denies the pow'r that wields it. God proclaims  
 His hot displeasure against foolish men  
 That live an atheist life. Involves the heav'n  
 In tempests, quits his grasp upon the winds  
 And gives them all their fury. Bids a plague  
 Kindle a fiery boil upon the skin,  
 And putrify the breath of blooming health.

He calls for famine, and the meagre fiend  
 Blows mildew from between his shrivel'd lips,  
 And taints the golden ear. He springs his mines,  
 And desolates a nation at a blast.  
 Forth steps the spruce philosopher, and tells  
 Of homogeneal and discordant springs  
 And principles ; of causes how they work  
 By necessary laws their sure effects,  
 Of action and re-action. He has found  
 The source of the disease that nature feels,  
 And bids the world take heart and banish fear.  
 Thou fool ! will thy discov'ry of the cause  
 Suspend th' effect or heal it ? Has not God  
 Still wrought by means since first he made the world,  
 And did he not of old employ his means  
 To drown it ? What is his creation less  
 Than a capacious reservoir of means  
 Form'd for his use, and ready at his will ?  
 Go, dress thine eyes with eye-falve, ask of him,

Or ask of whomsoever he has taught,  
 And learn, though late, the genuine cause of all.

England, with all thy faults, I love thee still  
 My country ! and while yet a nook is left  
 Where English minds and manners may be found,  
 Shall be constrain'd to love thee. Though thy clime  
 Be fickle, and thy year, most part, deform'd  
 With dripping rains, or wither'd by a frost,  
 I would not yet exchange thy fullen skies  
 And fields without a flower, for warmer France  
 With all her vines ; nor for Ausonias groves  
 Of golden fruitage and her myrtle bow'rs.  
 To shake thy senate, and from heights sublime  
 Of patriot eloquence to flash down fire  
 Upon thy foes, was never meant my task ;  
 But I can feel thy fortunes, and partake  
 Thy joys and sorrows with as true a heart  
 As any thund'rer there. And I can feel  
 Thy follies too, and with a just disdain

Frown at effeminate, whose very looks  
 Reflect dishonor on the land I love.  
 How, in the name of foldiership and fenfe,  
 Should England prosper, when fuch things, as fmooth  
 And tender as a girl, all effenced o'er  
 With odors, and as profligate as fweet,  
 Who fell their laurel for a myrtle wreath,  
 And love when they fhould fight; when fuch as thefe  
 Prefume to lay their hand upon the ark  
 Of her magnificent and awful caufe?  
 Time was when it was praife and boaft enough  
 In ev'ry clime, and travel where we might,  
 That we were born her children. Praife enough  
 To fill th' ambition of a private man,  
 That Chatham's language was his mother tongue,  
 And Wolfe's great name compatriot with his own.  
 Farewell thofe honors, and farewell with them  
 The hope of fuch hereafter. They have fall'n  
 Each in his field of glory: One in arms,  
 And one in council, Wolfe upon the lap

Of smiling victory that moment won,  
 And Chatham, heart-sick of his country's shame,  
 They made us many soldiers. Chatham still  
 Consulting England's happiness at home,  
 Secured it by an unforgiving frown  
 If any wrong'd her. Wolf, where'er he fought,  
 Put so much of his heart into his act,  
 That his example had a magnet's force,  
 And all were swift to follow whom all loved.  
 Those funs are fet. Oh rise some other such !  
 Or all that we have left, is empty talk  
 Of old atchievements, and despair of new.

Now hoist the sail, and let the streamers float  
 Upon the wanton breezes. Strew the deck  
 With lavender, and sprinkle liquid sweets,  
 That no rude favour maritime invade  
 The nose of nice nobility. Breathe soft  
 Ye clarionets, and softer still ye flutes,  
 That winds and waters lull'd by magic sounds

May bear us smoothly to the Gallic shore.  
 True, we have lost an empire—let it pass.  
 True, we may thank the perfidy of France  
 That pick'd the jewel out of England's crown,  
 With all the cunning of an envious shrew.  
 And let that pass—'twas but a trick of state.  
 A brave man knows no malice, but at once  
 Forgets in peace, the injuries of war,  
 And gives his direst foe a friend's embrace.  
 And shamed as we have been, to th' very beard  
 Braved and defied, and in our own sea proved  
 Too weak for those decisive blows, that once  
 Insured us mast'ry there, we yet retain  
 Some small pre-eminence, we justly boast  
 At least superior jockeyship, and claim  
 The honors of the turf as all our own.  
 Go then, well worthy of the praise ye seek,  
 And show the shame ye might conceal at home,  
 In foreign eyes!—be grooms, and win the plate,  
 Where once your nobler fathers won a crown!—

'Tis

'Tis gen'rous to communicate your skill  
 To those that need it. Folly is soon learn'd.  
 And under such preceptors, who can fail.

There is a pleasure in poetic pains  
 Which only poets know. The shifts and turns,  
 Th' expedients and inventions multiform  
 To which the mind resorts, in chace of terms  
 Though apt, yet coy, and difficult to win—  
 T' arrest the fleeting images that fill  
 The mirror of the mind, and hold them fast,  
 And force them fit, 'till he has pencil'd off  
 A faithful likeness of the forms he views ;  
 Then to dispose his copies with such art .  
 That each may find its most propitious light,  
 And shine by situation, hardly less,  
 Than by the labor and the skill it cost,  
 Are occupations of the poet's mind  
 So pleasing, and that steal away the thought  
 With such address, from themes of sad import,

That

That lost in his own musings, happy man!

He feels th' anxieties of life, denied

Their wonted entertainment, all retire.

Such joys has he that sings. But ah! not such,

Or seldom such, the hearers of his song.

Fastidious, or else listless, or perhaps

Aware of nothing arduous in a task

They never undertook, they little note

His dangers or escapes, and haply find

There least amusement where he found the most.

But is amusement all? studious of song,

And yet ambitious not to sing in vain,

I would not trifle merely, though the world

Be loudest in their praise who do no more.

Yet what can satire, whether grave or gay?

It may correct a foible, may chastise

The freaks of fashion, regulate the dress,

Retrench a sword-blade, or displace a patch;

But where are its sublimer trophies found?

What vice has it subdued? whose heart reclaim'd

By



By rigour, or whom laugh'd into reform ?

Alas ! Leviathan is not so tamed.

Laugh'd at, he laughs again ; and stricken hard,

Turns to the stroke his adamantine scales,

That fear no discipline of human hands.

The pulpit therefore (and I name it, fill'd  
 With solemn awe, that bids me well beware  
 With what intent I touch that holy thing)  
 The pulpit (when the fat'rist has at last,  
 Strutting and vap'ring in an empty school,  
 Spent all his force and made no profelyte)  
 I say the pulpit (in the sober use  
 Of its legitimate peculiar pow'rs)  
 Must stand acknowledg'd, while the world shall stand,  
 The most important and effectual guard,  
 Support and ornament of virtue's cause.  
 There stands the messenger of truth. There stands  
 The legate of the skies. His theme divine,  
 His office sacred, his credentials clear.

By

By him, the violated law speaks out  
 Its thunders, and by him, in strains as sweet  
 As angels use, the gospel whispers peace.  
 He stablishes the strong, restores the weak,  
 Reclaims the wand'rer, binds the broken heart,  
 And arm'd himself in panoply complete  
 Of heav'nly temper, furnishes with arms  
 Bright as his own, and trains by ev'ry rule  
 Of holy discipline, to glorious war,  
 The sacramental host of God's elect.  
 Are all such teachers? would to heav'n all were!  
 But hark—the Doctor's voice—fast wedg'd between  
 Two empirics he stands, and with swain cheeks  
 Inspires the news, his trumpet. Keener far  
 Than all invective is his bold harrangue,  
 While through that public organ of report  
 He hails the clergy; and defying shame,  
 Announces to the world his own and theirs.  
 He teaches those to read, whom schools dismiss'd,  
 And colleges untaught; sells accent, tone,

And

And emphasis in icore, and gives to pray'r  
Th' *adagio* and *andante* it demands.

He grinds divinity of other days

Down into modern use ; transforms old print

To zig-zag manuscript, and cheats the eyes

Of gall'ry critics by a thousand arts.—

Are there who purchase of the Doctor's ware!

Oh name it not in Gath!—it cannot be,

That grave and learned Clerks should need such aid.

He doubtless is in sport, and does but droll,

Assuming thus a rank unknown before,

Grand caterer and dry-nurse of the church.

I venerate the man, whose heart is warm,

Whose hands are pure, whose doctrine and whose life

Coincident, exhibit lucid proof

That he is honest in the sacred cause.

To such I render more than mere respect,

Whose actions say that they respect themselves.

But loose in morals, and in manners vain,

In conversation frivolous, in dress  
 Extreme, at once rapacious and profuse,  
 Frequent in park, with lady at his side,  
 Ambling and prattling scandal as he goes,  
 But rare at home, and never at his books  
 Or with his pen, save when he scrawls a card ;  
 Constant at routs, familiar with a round  
 Of ladyships, a stranger to the poor ;  
 Ambitious of preferment for its gold,  
 And well prepared by ignorance and sloth,  
 By infidelity and love o' th' world  
 To make God's work a sinecure ; a slave  
 To his own pleasures and his patron's pride. —  
 From such apostles, Oh ye mitred heads  
 Preserve the church ! and lay not careless hands  
 On sculls that cannot teach, and will not learn.

Would I describe a preacher, such as Paul  
 Were he on earth, would hear, approve, and own,  
 Paul should himself direct me. I would trace

His master-strokes, and draw from his design,  
 I would express him simple, grave, sincere;  
 In doctrine uncorrupt; in language plain;  
 And plain in manner. Decent, solemn, chaste,  
 And natural in gesture. Much impress'd  
 Himself, as conscious of his awful charge,  
 And anxious mainly that the flock he feeds  
 May feel it too. Affectionate in look,  
 And tender in address, as well becomes  
 A messenger of grace to guilty men.  
 Behold the picture!—Is it like?—Like whom?  
 The things that mount the rostrum with a skip  
 And then skip down again. Pronounce a text,  
 Cry, hem; and reading what they never wrote  
 Just fifteen minutes, huddle up their work,  
 And with a well bred whisper close the scene.

In man or woman, but far most in man,  
 And most of all in man that ministers  
 And serves the altar, in my soul I loath

All affectation. 'Tis my perfect scorn ;

Object of my implacable disgust.

What !—will a man play tricks; will he indulge

A silly fond conceit of his fair form

And just proportion, fashionable mien

And pretty face in presence of his God ?

Or will he seek to dazzle me with tropes,

As with the di'mond on his lily hand,

And play his brilliant parts before my eyes

When I am hungry for the bread of life ?

He mocks his Maker, prostitutes and shames

His noble office, and instead of truth

Displaying his own beauty, starves his flock.

Therefore avaunt ! all attitude and stare

And start theatric, practised at the glass.

I seek divine simplicity in him

Who handles things divine ; and all beside,

Though learn'd with labor, and though much admir'd

By curious eyes and judgments ill-inform'd,

To me is odious as the nasal twang

At conventicle heard, where worthy men  
 Missed by custom, strain celestial themes  
 Through the prest nostril, spectacle-befrid.  
 Some, decent in demeanor while they preach,  
 That task perform'd, relapse into themselves,  
 And having spoken wisely, at the close  
 Grow wanton, and give proof to ev'ry eye—  
 Whoe'er was edified, themselves were not.  
 Forth comes the pocket mirror. First we stroke  
 An eye-brow; next, compose a straggling lock ;  
 Then with an air, most gracefully perform'd,  
 Fall back into our seat ; extend an arm  
 And lay it at its ease with gentle care,  
 With handkerchief in hand, depending low.  
 The better hand more busy, gives the nose  
 Its bergamot, or aids th' indebted eye  
 With op'ra glafs to watch the moving scene,  
 And recognize the slow-retiring fair.  
 Now this is fulsome ; and offends me more  
 Than in a churchman slovenly neglect

And

And rustic coarseness would. An heav'nly mind  
 May be indiff'rent to her house of clay,  
 And slight the hovel as beneath her care ;  
 But how a body so fantastic, trim,  
 And quaint in its deportment and attire,  
 Can lodge an heav'nly mind—demands a doubt.

He that negotiates between God and man,  
 As God's ambassador, the grand concerns  
 Of judgment and of mercy, should beware  
 Of lightness in his speech. 'Tis pitiful  
 To court a grin, when you should wooe a soul ;  
 To break a jest, when pity would inspire  
 Pathetic exhortation ; and t' address  
 The skittish fancy with facetious tales,  
 When sent with God's commission to the heart.  
 So did not Paul. Direct me to a quip  
 Or merry turn in all he ever wrote,  
 And I consent you take it for your text,  
 Your only one, till sides and benches fail.



No : he was serious in a serious cause,  
 And understood too well the weighty terms  
 That he had ta'en in charge. He would not stoop  
 To conquer those by jocular exploits,  
 Whom truth and soberness assail'd in vain.

Oh, popular applause ! what heart of man  
 Is proof against thy sweet seducing charms ?  
 The wisest and the best feel urgent need  
 Of all their caution in thy gentlest gales ;  
 But swell'd into a gust—who then, alas !  
 With all his canvass set, and inexpert  
 And therefore heedless, can withstand thy power ?  
 Praise from the rivel'd lips of toothless, bald  
 Decrepitude ; and in the looks of lean  
 And craving poverty ; and in the bow  
 Respectful of the smutch'd artificer  
 Is oft too welcome, and may much disturb  
 The bias of the purpose. How much more  
 Pour'd forth by beauty splendid and polite,

In language soft as adoration breathes ?

Ah spare your idol ! think him human still.

Charms he may have, but he has frailties too,

Doat not too much, nor spoil what ye admire.

All truth is from the sempiternal source  
 Of light divine. But Egypt, Greece, and Rome  
 Drew from the stream below. More favor'd we  
 Drink, when we chuse it, at the fountain head.  
 To them it flow'd much mingled and defiled  
 With hurtful error, prejudice, and dreams  
 Illusive of philosophy, so call'd,  
 But falsely. Sages after sages strove  
 In vain, to filter off a chrystal draught  
 Pure from the lees, which often more enhanced  
 The thirst than slaked it, and not seldom bred  
 Intoxication and delirium wild.  
 In vain they push'd enquiry to the birth  
 And spring-time of the world, ask'd, whence is man ?  
 Why form'd at all ? And wherefore as he is ?

Where must he find his Maker ? With what rites  
 Adore him ? Will he hear, accept, and bless ?  
 Or does he sit regardless of his works ?  
 Has man within him an immortal seed ?  
 Or does the tomb take all ? If he survive  
 His ashes, where ? and in what weal or woe ?  
 Knots worthy of solution, which alone  
 A Deity could solve. Their answers vague  
 And all at random, fabulous and dark,  
 Left them as dark themselves. Their rules of life  
 Defective and unfunction'd, proved too weak  
 To bind the roving appetite, and lead  
 Blind nature to a God not yet reveal'd.  
 'Tis Revelation satisfies all doubts,  
 Explains all mysteries, except her own,  
 And so illuminates the path of life,  
 That fools discover it, and stray no more.  
 Now tell me, dignified and sapient sir,  
 My man of morals, nurtur'd in the shades

Of Academus, is this false or true ?  
 Is Christ the abler teacher, or the schools ?  
 If Christ, then why resort at ev'ry turn  
 To Athens or to Rome, for wisdom short  
 Of man's occasions, when in him reside  
 Grace, knowledge, comfort, an unfathom'd store ?  
 How oft when Paul has serv'd us with a text,  
 Has Epictetus, Plato, Tully preach'd !  
 Men that if now alive, would sit content  
 And humble learners of a Saviour's worth,  
 Preach it who might. Such was their love of truth,  
 Their thirst of knowledge, and their candour too.

And thus it is. The pastor, either vain  
 By nature, or by flatt'ry made so, taught  
 To gaze at his own splendor, and t' exalt  
 Absurdly, not his office, but himself ;  
 Or unenlighten'd, and too proud to learn,  
 Or vicious, and not therefore apt to teach,  
 Perverting oftēn by the strefs of lewd

And

And loose example, whom he should instruct,  
 Exposés and holds up to broad disgrace  
 The noblest function, and discredits much  
 The brightest truths that man has ever seen.  
 For ghostly counsel, if it either fall  
 Below the exigence, or be not back'd  
 With show of love, at least with hopeful proof  
 Of some sincerity on the giver's part ;  
 Or be dishonor'd in th' exterior form  
 And mode of its conveyance, by such tricks  
 As move derision, or by foppish airs  
 And histrionic mumm'ry, that let down  
 The pulpit to the level of the stage,  
 Drops from the lips a disregarded thing.  
 The weak perhaps are moved, but are not taught,  
 While prejudice in men of stronger minds  
 Takes deeper root, confirm'd by what they see.  
 A relaxation of religions hold  
 Upon the roving and untutor'd heart  
 Soon follows, and the curb of conscience snapt,

The laity run wild. —But do they now?  
 Note their extravagance, and be convinced,

As nations ignorant of God, contrive  
 A wooden one, so we, no longer taught  
 By monitors that mother church supplies,  
 Now make our own. Posterity will ask  
 (If e'er posterity see verse of mine).  
 Some fifty or an hundred lustrums hence,  
 What was a monitor in George's days?  
 My very gentle reader, yet unborn,  
 Of whom I needs must augur better things,  
 Since heav'n would fure grow weary of a world  
 Productive only of a race like us,  
 A monitor is wood. Plank shaven thin.  
 We wear it at our backs. There closely braced  
 And neatly fitted, it compresses hard  
 The prominent and most unsightly bones,  
 And binds the shoulders flat. We prove its use  
 Sov'reign and most effectual to secure

A form

A form not now: gymnastic as of yore,  
 From rickets and distortion, else, our lot,  
 But thus admonish'd we can walk erect,  
 One proof at least of manhood; while the friend  
 Sticks close, a Mentor worthy of his charge.  
 Our habits costlier than Lucullus wore,  
 And by caprice as multiplied as his,  
 Just please us while the fashion is at full,  
 But change with ev'ry moon. The sycophant  
 That waits to dress us, arbitrates their date,  
 Surveys his fair reversion with keen eye;  
 Finds one ill made, another obsolete,  
 This fits not nicely, that is ill conceived,  
 And making prize of all that he condemns,  
 With our expenditure defrays his own,  
 Variety's the very spice of life  
 That gives it all its flavor. We have run  
 Through ev'ry change that fancy at the loom  
 Exhausted, has had genius to supply,  
 And studious of mutation still, discard

A real elegance a little used  
 For monstrous novelty and strange disguise.  
 We sacrifice to dress, till household joys  
 And comforts cease. Dress drains our cellar dry,  
 And keeps our larder lean. Puts out our fires,  
 And introduces hunger, frost, and woe,  
 Where peace and hospitality might reign.  
 What man that lives and that knows how to live,  
 Would fail t' exhibit at the public shows  
 A form as splendid as the proudest there,  
 Though appetite raise outcries at the cost?  
 A man o' th' town dines late, but soon enough  
 With reasonable forecast and dispatch,  
 T' insure a side-box station at half price.  
 You think perhaps, so delicate his dress,  
 His daily fare as delicate. Alas!  
 He picks clean teeth, and busy as he seems  
 With an old tavern quill, is hungry yet.  
 The rout is folly's circle which she draws  
 With magic wand. So potent is the spell,

That



That none decoy'd into that fatal ring,  
 Unless by heaven's peculiar grace, escape.  
 There we grow early grey; but never wise.  
 There form connexions, and acquire no friend.  
 Solicit pleasure hopeless of success;  
 Waste youth in occupations only fit  
 For second childhood; and devote old age  
 To sports which only childhood could excuse.  
 There they are happiest who dissemble best  
 Their weariness; and they the most polite  
 Who squander time and treasure with a smile  
 Though at their own destruction. She that asks  
 Her dear five hundred friends, contemns them all,  
 And hates their coming. They, what can they less?  
 Make just reprisals, and with cringe and shrug  
 And bow obsequious, hide their hate of her.  
 All catch the frenzy, downward from her Grace  
 Whose flambeaux flash against the morning skies,  
 And gild our chamber ceilings as they pass,  
 To her who frugal only that her thrift.

May feed excesses she can ill afford,  
 Is hackney'd home unlacquey'd. Who in haste  
 Alighting, turns the key in her own door,  
 And at the watchman's lantern borrowing light,  
 Finds a cold bed her only comfort left.  
 Wives beggar husbands, husbands starve their wives,  
 On fortune's velvet altar off'ring up  
 Their last poor pittance. Fortune most severe  
 Of goddesses yet known, and costlier far  
 Than all that held their routs in heathen heav'n—  
 So fare we in this prison-house the world.  
 And 'tis a fearful spectacle to see  
 So many maniacs dancing in their chains.  
 They gaze upon the links that hold them fast  
 With eyes of anguish, execrate their lot,  
 Then shake them in despair, and dance again.

Now basket up the family of plagues  
 That waste our vitals. Peculation, sale  
 Of honor, perjury, corruption, frauds

By forgery, by subterfuge of law,  
 By tricks and lies as num'rous and as keen  
 As the necessities their authors feel;  
 Then cast them closely bundled, ev'ry braf  
 At the right door. Profusion is its fire.  
 Profusion unrestrain'd, with all that's base  
 In character, has litter'd all the land,  
 And bred within the mem'ry of no few  
 A priesthood such as Baal's was of old,  
 A people such as never was 'till now.  
 It is a hungry vice :—it eats up all  
 That gives society its beauty, strength,  
 Convenience, and security, and use.  
 Makes men mere vermin, worthy to be trapp'd  
 And gibbeted as fast as catchpole claws  
 Can seize the slipp'ry prey. Unties the knot  
 Of union, and converts the sacred band  
 That holds mankind together, to a scourge.  
 Profusion deluging a state with lusts  
 Of grossest nature and of worst effects,

Prepares

Prepares it for its ruin. Hardens, blinds,  
 And warps the consciences of public men  
 Till they can laugh at virtue; mock the fools  
 That trust them; and in th' end, disclose a face  
 That would have shock'd credulity herself  
 Unmask'd, vouchsafing this their sole excuse,  
 Since all alike are selfish—why not they?  
 This does Profusion, and th' accursed cause  
 Of such deep mischief, has itself a cause.

In colleges and halls, in ancient days,  
 When learning, virtue, piety and truth  
 Were precious, and inculcated with care,  
 There dwelt a sage call'd Discipline. His head  
 Not yet by time completely silver'd o'er,  
 Bespoke him past the bounds of freakish youth,  
 But strong for service still, and unimpair'd.  
 His eye was meek and gentle, and a smile  
 Play'd on his lips, and in his speech was heard  
 Paternal sweetness, dignity, and love.

The occupation dearest to his heart  
 Was to encourage goodness. He would stroke  
 The head of modest and ingenuous worth  
 That blush'd at its own praise, and press the youth  
 Close to his side that pleas'd him. Learning grew  
 Beneath his care, a thriving vig'rous plant ;  
 The mind was well inform'd, the passions held  
 Subordinate, and diligence was choice.  
 If e'er it chanced, as sometimes chance it must,  
 That one among so many overleap'd  
 The limits of controul, his gentle eye  
 Grew stern, and darted a severe rebuke ;  
 His frown was full of terror, and his voice  
 Shook the delinquent with such fits of awe  
 As left him not, till penitence had won  
 Lost favor back again, and clos'd the breach.  
 But discipline, a faithful servant long,  
 Declined at length into the vale of years ;  
 A palsy struck his arm, his sparkling eye  
 Was quench'd in rheums of age, his voice unstrung

Grew tremulous, and moved derision more  
 Than rev'rence, in perverse rebellious youth.  
 So colleges and halls neglected much  
 Their good old friend, and Discipline at length  
 O'erlook'd and unemploy'd, fell sick and died.  
 Then study languish'd, emulation slept,  
 And virtue fled. The schools became a scene  
 Of solemn farce, where ignorance in stilts,  
 His cap well lined with logic not his own,  
 With parrot tongue perform'd the scholar's part,  
 Proceeding soon a graduated dunce.  
 Then compromise had place, and scrutiny  
 Became stone-blind, precedence went in truck,  
 And he was competent whose purse was so.  
 A dissolution of all bonds ensued,  
 The curbs invented for the muleish mouth  
 Of head-strong youth were broken; bars and bolts  
 Grew rusty by disuse, and massy gates  
 Forgot their office, op'ning with a touch;  
 Till gowns at length are found mere masquerade;

The tassell'd cap and the spruce band a jest,  
 A mock'ry of the world. What need of these  
 For gamesters, jockies, brothellers impure,  
 Spendthrifts and booted sportsmen, oft'ner seen  
 With belted waist and pointers at their heels,  
 Than in the bounds of duty? what was learn'd,  
 If aught was learn'd in childhood, is forgot,  
 And such expence as pinches parents blue,  
 And mortifies the lib'ral hand of love,  
 Is squander'd in pursuit of idle sports  
 And vicious pleasures. Buys the boy a name,  
 That fits a stigma on his father's house,  
 And cleaves through life inseparably close  
 To him that wears it. What can after-games  
 Of riper joys, and commerce with the world,  
 The lewd vain world that must receive him soon,  
 Add to such erudition thus acquir'd  
 Where science and where virtue are profess'd?  
 They may confirm his habits, rivet fast  
 His folly, but to spoil him is a task

That

That bids defiance to th' united pow'rs  
 Of fashion, dissipation, taverns, stews.  
 Now, blame we most the nurselings or the nurse?  
 The children crook'd and twisted and deform'd  
 Through want of care, or her whose winking eye  
 And slumb'ring oscitancy marris the brood?  
 The nurse no doubt. Regardless of her charge  
 She needs herself correction. Needs to learn  
 That it is dang'rous sporting with the world,  
 With things so sacred as a nation's trust,  
 The nurture of her youth, her dearest pledge.

All are not such. I had a brother once.—  
 Peace to the mem'ry of a man of worth;  
 A man of letters, and of manners too.  
 Of manners sweet as virtue always wears,  
 When gay good-nature dresses her in smiles.  
 He graced a college\* in which order yet

\* Ben'et Coll. Cambridge.



Was facred, and was honor'd, lov'd and wept  
 By more than one, themselves conspicuous there.  
 Some minds are temper'd happily, and mixt  
 With fuch ingredients of good fenfe and tafte.  
 Of what is excellent in man, they thirft  
 With fuch a zeal to be what they approve,  
 That no restraints can circumscribe them more,  
 Than they themselves by choice, for wifdom's fake.  
 Nor can example hurt them. What they fee  
 Of vice in others but enhancing more  
 The charms of virtue in their juft esteem.  
 If fuch escape contagion, and emerge  
 Pure, from fo foul a pool, to fhine abroad,  
 And give the world their talents and themselves,  
 Small thanks to thofe whose negligence or sloth  
 Exposed their inexperience to the fnare,  
 And left them to an undirected choice,

See then ! the quiver broken and decay'd  
 In which are kept our arrows. Rusting there

In wild disorder and unfit for use,  
 What wonder if discharged into the world  
 They shame their shooters with a random flight,  
 Their points obtuse, and feathers drunk with wine.  
 Well may the church wage unsuccessful war  
 With such artill'ry arm'd. Vice parries wide  
 Th' undreaded volley with a sword of straw,  
 And stands an impudent and fearless mark.

Have we not track'd the felon home, and found  
 His birth-place and his dam? the country mourns,  
 Mourns, because ev'ry plague that can infest  
 Society, and that saps and worms the base  
 Of th' edifice that policy has raised,  
 Swarms in all quarters; meets the eye, the ear,  
 And suffocates the breath at ev'ry turn,  
 Profusion breeds them. And the cause itself  
 Of that calamitous mischief has been found.  
 Found too where most offensive, in the skirts  
 Of the robed pædagogues. Else, let the arraign'd

Stand up unconscious and refute the charge.  
So when the Jewish Leader stretched his arm  
And waved his rod divine, a race obscene  
Spawn'd in the muddy beds of Nile, came forth  
Polluting Ægypt. Gardens, fields, and plains  
Were cover'd with the pest. The streets were fill'd;  
The croaking nuisance lurk'd in ev'ry nook,  
Nor palaces nor even chambers 'scaped,  
And the land stank, so num'rous was the fry.

## ARGUMENT of the THIRD BOOK.

*Self-recollection and reproof.—Address to domestic happiness.—Some account of myself.—The vanity of many of their pursuits who are reputed wise.—Justification of my censures.—Divine illumination necessary to the most expert philosopher.—The question, What is truth? answered by other questions.—Domestic happiness addressed again.—Few lovers of the country.—My tame hare.—Occupations of a retired gentleman in his garden.—Pruning.—Framing.—Greenhouse.—Sowing of flower-seeds.—The country preferable to the town even in the winter.—Reasons why it is deserted at that season.—Ruinous effects of gaming and of expensive improvement.—Book concludes with an apostrophé to the metropolis.*

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B O O K III.

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T H E G A R D E N.

A S one who long in thickets and in brakes  
Entangled, winds now this way and now that  
His devious course uncertain, seeking home;  
Or having long in miry ways been foiled  
And fore discomfited, from slough to slough  
Plunging, and half despairing of escape,  
If chance at length he find a green-sword smooth  
And faithful to the foot, his spirits rise,  
He chirrupps brisk his ear-erecting steed,  
And winds his way with pleasure and with ease;  
So I, designing other themes, and call'd

T' adorn

T' adorn the Sofa with eulogium due,  
 To tell its slumbers and to paint its dreams,  
 Have rambled wide. In country, city, seat  
 Of academic fame (howe'er deserved)  
 Long held, and scarcely disengaged at last.  
 But now with pleasant pace, a cleaner road  
 I mean to tread. I feel myself at large,  
 Courageous, and refresh'd for future toil,  
 If toil await me; or if dangers new,

Since pulpits fail, and sounding-boards reflect  
 Most part an empty ineffectual sound,  
 What chance that I, to fame so little known,  
 Nor conversant with men or manners much,  
 Should speak to purpose, or with better hope  
 Crack the satyric thong? 'twere wiser far  
 For me enamour'd of sequester'd scenes,  
 And charm'd with rural beauty, to repose  
 Where chance may throw me, beneath elm or vine,  
 My languid limbs when summer fears the plains,

Or when rough winter rages, on the soft  
 And shelter'd Sofa, while the nitrous air  
 Feeds a blue flame and makes a chearful hearth ;  
 There undisturb'd by folly, and appriz'd  
 How great the danger of disturbing her,  
 To muse in silence, or at least confine  
 Remarks that gail so many, to the few  
 My partners in retreat. Disgust conceal'd  
 Is oft-times proof of wisdom, when the fault  
 Is obstinate, and cure beyond our reach.

Domestic happiness, thou only bliss  
 Of Paradise that has survived the fall !  
 Though few now taste thee unimpair'd and pure,  
 Or tasting, long enjoy thee, too infirm  
 Or too incautious to preserve thy sweets  
 Unmixt with drops of bitter, which neglect  
 Or temper sheds into thy chrystal cup.  
 Thou art the nurse of virtue. In thine arms  
 She smiles, appearing, as in truth she is,

Heav'n

Heav'n born and destined to the skies again,  
 Thou art not known where pleasure is adored,  
 That reeling goddess with the zoneless waist  
 And wand'ring eyes, still leaning on the arm  
 Of novelty, her fickle frail support ;  
 For thou art meek and constant, hating change,  
 And finding in the calm of truth-tied love  
 Joys that her stormy raptures never yeild.  
 Forfaking thee, what shipwreck have we made  
 Of honor, dignity, and fair renown,  
 'Till prostitution elbows us aside  
 In all our crowded streets, and senates seem  
 Convened for purposes of empire less,  
 Than to release th' adulteress from her bond.  
 Th' adulteress ! what a theme for angry verse,  
 What provocation to th' indignant heart  
 That feels for injured love ! but I disdain  
 The nauseous task to paint her as she is,  
 Cruel, abandon'd, glorying in her shame.  
 No. Let her pass, and chariotted along



In guilty splendor, shake the public ways ;  
 The frequency of crimes has wash'd them white,  
 And verse of mine shall never brand the wretch,  
 Whom matrons now of character unsmirch'd  
 And chaste themselves, are not ashamed to own.  
 Virtue and vice had bound'ries in old time  
 Not to be pass'd. And she that had renounced  
 Her sex's honor, was renounced herself  
 By all that priz'd it ; not for prud'ry's sake,  
 But dignity's, resentful of the wrong.  
 'Twas hard perhaps on here and there a waif  
 Desirous to return and not received,  
 But was an wholesome rigor in the main,  
 And taught th' unblemish'd to preserve with care  
 That purity, whose loss was loss of all.  
 Men too were nice in honor in those days,  
 And judg'd offenders well. And he that sharp'd,  
 And pocketted a prize by fraud obtain'd,  
 Was mark'd and shunn'd as odious. He that sold  
 His country, or was slack when she required

His ev'ry nerve in action and at stretch,  
 Paid with the blood that he had basely spared  
 The price of his default. But now, yes, now,  
 We are become so candid and so fair,  
 So lib'ral in construction, and so rich  
 In christian charity, a good-natured age!  
 That they are safe, sinners of either sex,  
 Transgress what laws they may. Well dress'd, well bred,  
 Well equipaged, is ticket good enough  
 To pass us readily through ev'ry door.  
 Hypocrisy; detest her as we may,  
 (And no man's hatred ever wrong'd her yet)  
 May claim this merit still, that she admits  
 The worth of what she mimics with such care,  
 And thus gives virtue indirect applause;  
 But she has burnt her mask not needed here,  
 Where vice has such allowance, that her shifts  
 And specious semblances have lost their use.

I was a stricken deer that left the herd  
 Long since; with many an arrow deep infixt

My panting side was charged when I withdrew  
 To seek a tranquil death in distant shades.  
 There was I found by one who had himself  
 Been hurt by th' archers. In his side he bore  
 And in his hands and feet the cruel scars.  
 With gentle force soliciting the darts  
 He drew them forth, and heal'd and bade me live.  
 Since then, with few associates, in remote  
 And silent woods I wander, far from those  
 My former partners of the peopled scene,  
 With few associates, and not wishing more.  
 Here much I ruminatè, as much I may,  
 With other views of men and manners now  
 Than once, and others of a life to come.  
 I see that all are wand'ers, gone astray  
 Each in his own delusions; they are lost  
 In chace of fancied happiness, still wooed  
 And never won. Dream after dream ensues,  
 And still they dream that they shall still succeed,  
 And still are disappointed; rings the world

With the vain stir. I sum up half mankind,  
 And add two-thirds of the remainder half,  
 And find the total of their hopes and fears  
 Dreams, empty dreams. The million flit as gay  
 As if created only like the fly  
 That spreads his motley wings in th' eye of noon  
 To sport their season and be seen no more.  
 The rest are sober dreamers, grave and wise,  
 And pregnant with discov'ries new and rare.  
 Some write a narrative of wars and feats  
 Of heroes little known, and call the rant  
 An history. Describe the man, of whom  
 His own coœvals took but little note,  
 And paint his person, character and views,  
 As they had known him from his mother's womb.  
 They disentangle from the puzzled skein  
 In which obscurity has wrapp'd them up,  
 The threads of politic and shrewd design  
 That ran through all his purposes, and charge  
 His mind with meanings that he never had,

Or having, kept conceal'd. Some drill and bore  
 The solid earth, and from the strata there  
 Extract a register, by which we learn  
 That he who made it and reveal'd its date  
 To Moses, was mistaken in its age.  
 Some more acute and more industrious still  
 Contrive creation. Travel nature up  
 To the sharp peak of her sublimest height,  
 And tell us whence the stars: Why some are fixt,  
 And planetary some. What gave them first  
 Rotation, from what fountain flow'd their light.  
 Great contest follows, and much learned dust  
 Involves the combatants, each claiming truth,  
 And truth disclaiming both. And thus they spend  
 The little wick of life's poor shallow lamp,  
 In playing tricks with nature, giving laws  
 To distant worlds and trifling in their own.  
 Is't not a pity now that tickling rheums  
 Should ever tease the lungs and blear the sight  
 Of oracles like these? Great pity too,

That having wielded th' elements, and built  
 A thousand systems, each in his own way,  
 They should go out in fume and be forgot?  
 Ah! what is life thus spent? and what are they  
 But frantic who thus spend it? all for smoke—  
 Eternity for bubbles, proves at last  
 A senseless bargain. When I see such games  
 Play'd by the creatures of a pow'r who swears  
 That he will judge the earth, and call the fool  
 To a sharp reck'ning that has lived in vain,  
 And when I weigh this seeming wisdom well  
 And prove it in th' infallible result  
 So hollow and so false—I feel my heart  
 Dissolve in pity, and account the learn'd,  
 If this be learning, most of all deceived.  
 Great crimes alarm the conscience, but she sleeps  
 While thoughtful man is plausibly amused.  
 Defend me therefore common sense, say I,  
 From reveries so airy, from the toil

Of dropping buckets into empty wells,  
 And growing old in drawing nothing up!

'Twere well, says one sage erudite, profound,  
 Terribly arch'd and aquiline his nose,  
 And overbuilt with most impending brows,  
 'Twere well could you permit the world to live  
 As the world pleases. What's the world to you?  
 Much. I was born of woman, and drew milk  
 As sweet as charity from human breasts.

I think, articulate, I laugh and weep  
 And exercise all functions of a man,  
 How then should I and any man that lives  
 Be strangers to each other? pierce my vein,  
 Take of the crimson stream meandering there  
 And catechise it well. Apply your glafs,  
 Search it, and prove now if it be not blood  
 Congenial with thine own. And if it be,  
 What edge of subtlety canst thou suppose  
 Keen enough, wise and skilful as thou art,

To cut the link of brotherhood, by which  
 One common Maker bound me to the kind,  
 True; I am no proficient, I confess,  
 In arts like yours. I cannot call the swift  
 And perilous lightnings from the angry clouds,  
 And bid them hide themselves in th' earth beneath,  
 I cannot analyse the air, nor catch  
 The parallax of yonder luminous point  
 That seems half quench'd in the immense abyss ;  
 Such pow'rs I boast not—neither can I rest  
 A silent witness of the headlong rage  
 Or heedless folly by which thousands die,  
 Bone of my bone, and kindred souls to mine.

God never meant that man should scale the heav'ns  
 By strides of human wisdom. In his works  
 Though wond'rous, he commands us in his word  
 To seek him rather, where his mercy shines.  
 The mind indeed enlighten'd from above  
 Views him in all. Ascribes to the grand cause



The grand effect. Acknowledges with joy  
 His manner, and with rapture tastes his stile.  
 But never yet did philosophic tube  
 That brings the planets home into the eye  
 Of observation, and discovers, else  
 Not visible, his family of worlds,  
 Discover him that rules them; such a veil  
 Hangs over mortal eyes, blind from the birth  
 And dark in things divine. Full often too  
 Our wayward intellect, the more we learn  
 Of nature, overlooks her author more,  
 From instrumental causes proud to draw  
 Conclusions retrograde and mad mistake.  
 But if his word once teach us, shoot a ray  
 Through all the heart's dark chambers, and reveal  
 Truths undiscern'd but by that holy light,  
 Then all is plain. Philosophy baptized  
 In the pure fountain of eternal love  
 Has eyes indeed; and viewing all she sees  
 As meant to indicate a God to man,

Gives *him* his praise, and forfeits not her own,  
 Learning has borne such fruit in other days  
 On all her branches. Piety has found  
 Friends in the friends of science, and true pray'r  
 Has flow'd from lips wet with Castalian dew.  
 Such was thy wisdom, Newton, childlike sage!  
 Sagacious reader of the works of God,  
 And in his word sagacious. Such too thine  
 Milton, whose genius had angelic wings,  
 And fed on manna. And such thine in whom  
 Our British Themis gloried with just cause  
 Immortal Hale! for deep discernment praised  
 And found integrity not more, than famed  
 For sanctity of manners undefiled.

All flesh is grass, and all its glory fades  
 Like the fair flow'r dishevell'd in the wind;  
 Riches have wings, and grandeur is a dream;  
 The man we celebrate must find a tomb,  
 And we that worship him, ignoble graves.

Nothing

Nothing is proof against the gen'ral curse  
Of vanity, that seizes all below,

The only amaranthine flow'r on earth  
Is virtue, th' only lasting treasure, truth.

But what is truth? 'twas Pilate's question put  
To truth itself, that deign'd him no reply.

And wherefore? will not God impart his light  
To them that ask it?—Freely—'tis his joy,  
His glory, and his nature to impart.

But to the proud, uncandid, insincere  
Or negligent enquirer, not a spark.

What's that which brings contempt upon a book  
And him that writes it, though the stile be neat,  
The method clear, and argument exact?

That makes a minister in holy things

The joy of many and the dread of more,

His name a theme for praise and for reproach?—

That while it gives us worth in God's account,

Depreciates and undoes us in our own?

What pearl is it that rich men cannot buy,

That

That learning is too proud to gather up,  
 But which the poor and the despised of all  
 Seek and obtain, and often find unfought?  
 Tell me, and I will tell thee, what is truth,

Oh friendly to the best pursuits of man,  
 Friendly to thought, to virtue, and to peace,  
 Domestic life in rural leisure pass'd !  
 Few know thy value, and few taste thy sweets,  
 Though many boast thy favours, and affect  
 To understand and chuse thee for their own.  
 But foolish man foregoes his proper bliss  
 Ev'n as his first progenitor, and quits,  
 Though placed in paradise (for earth has still  
 Some traces of her youthful beauty left)  
 Substantial happiness for transient joy.  
 Scenes form'd for contemplation, and to nurse  
 The growing seeds of wisdom ; that suggest  
 By ev'ry pleasing image they present  
 Reflections such as meliorate the heart,

Compose the passions, and exalt the mind,  
 Scenes such as these, 'tis his supreme delight  
 To fill with riot and defile with blood.  
 Should some contagion kind to the poor brutes  
 We persecute, annihilate the tribes  
 That draw the sportsman over hill and dale  
 Fearless, and rapt away from all his cares ;  
 Should never game-fowl hatch her eggs again,  
 Nor baited hook deceive the fishes eye ;  
 Could pageantry and dance and feast and song  
 Be quell'd in all our summer-month retreats ;  
 How many self-deluded nymphs and swains  
 Who dream they have a taste for fields and groves,  
 Would find them hideous nurs'ries of the spleen,  
 And crowd the roads, impatient for the town !  
 They love the country, and none else, who seek  
 For their own sake its silence and its shade.  
 Delights which who would leave, that has a heart  
 Susceptible of pity, or a mind  
 Cultured and capable of sober thought,

For all the savage din of the swift pack  
 And clamours of the field? detested sport,  
 That owes its pleasures to another's pain,  
 That feeds upon the sobs and dying shrieks  
 Of harmless nature, dumb, but yet endued  
 With eloquence that agonies inspire  
 Of silent tears and heart-distending sighs!  
 Vain tears alas! and sighs that never find  
 A corresponding tone in jovial souls.  
 Well—one at least is safe. One shelter'd hare  
 Has never heard the sanguinary yell  
 Of cruel man, exulting in her woes.  
 Innocent partner of my peaceful home,  
 Whom ten long years experience of my care  
 Has made at last familiar, she has lost  
 Much of her vigilant instinctive dread,  
 Not needful here, beneath a roof like mine.  
 Yes—thou mayst eat thy bread, and lick the hand  
 That feeds thee; thou mayst frolic on the floor  
 At evening, and at night retire secure

To thy straw-couch, and slumber unalarm'd.  
 For I have gain'd thy confidence, have pledg'd  
 All that is human in me, to protect  
 Thine unsuspecting gratitude and love.  
 If I survive thee I will dig thy grave,  
 And when I place thee in it, sighing say,  
 I knew at least one hare that had a friend.

How various his employments, whom the world  
 Calls idle, and who justly in return  
 Esteems that busy world an idler too !  
 Friends, books, a garden, and perhaps his pen,  
 Delightful industry enjoyed at home,  
 And nature in her cultivated trim  
 Dressed to his taste, inviting him abroad—  
 Can he want occupation who has these ?  
 Will he be idle who has much t' enjoy ?  
 Me therefore, studious of laborious ease,  
 Not slothful ; happy to deceive the time  
 Not waste it ; and aware that human life

Is but a loan to be repaid with use,  
 When he shall call his debtors to account,  
 From whom are all our blessings, bus'ness finds  
 Ev'n here. While sedulous I seek t' improve,  
 At least neglect not, or leave unemploy'd  
 The mind he gave me; driving it, though slack  
 Too oft, and much impeded in its work  
 By causes not to be divulged in vain,  
 To its just point the service of mankind.  
 He that attends to his interior self,  
 That has a heart and keeps it; has a mind  
 That hungers and supplies it; and who seeks  
 A social, not a dissipated life,  
 Has business. Feels himself engaged t' atchieve  
 No unimportant, though a silent task.  
 A life all turbulence and noise, may seem  
 To him that leads it, wise and to be prais'd;  
 But wisdom is a pearl with most success  
 Sought in still water, and beneath clear skies.  
 He that is ever occupied in storms,



Or dives not for it, or brings up instead,  
Vainly industrious, a disgraceful prize.

The morning finds the self-sequester'd man  
Fresh for his task, intend what task he may.  
Whether inclement seasons recommend  
His warm but simple home, where he enjoys  
With her who shares his pleasures and his heart,  
Sweet converse, sipping calm the fragrant lymph  
Which neatly she prepares ; then to his book  
Well chosen, and not fullenly perused  
In selfish silence, but imparted oft  
As aught occurs that she may smile to hear,  
Or turn to nourishment digested well.  
Or if the garden with its many cares,  
All well repay'd, demand him, he attends  
The welcome call, conscious how much the hand  
Of lubbard labor needs his watchful eye,  
Oft loit'ring lazily if not o'erseen,  
Or misapplying his unskilful strength.

Nor

Nor does he govern only or direct,  
 But much performs himself. No works indeed  
 That ask robust tough sinews bred to toil,  
 Servile employ—but such as may amuse,  
 Not tire, demanding rather skill than force.  
 Proud of his well spread walls, he views his trees  
 That meet (no barren interval between)  
 With pleasure more than ev'n their fruits afford,  
 Which, save himself who trains them, none can feel.  
 These therefore are his own peculiar charge,  
 No meaner hand may discipline the shoots,  
 None but his steel approach them. What is weak,  
 Distemper'd, or has lost prolific pow'rs  
 Impair'd by age, his unrelenting hand  
 Dooms to the knife. Nor does he spare the soft  
 And succulent that feeds its giant growth  
 But barren, at th' expence of neighb'ring twigs  
 Less ostentatious, and yet studded thick  
 With hopeful gems. The rest, no portion left  
 That may disgrace his art, or disappoint

Large expectation, he disposes neat  
 At measur'd distances, that air and sun  
 Admitted freely may afford their aid,  
 And ventilate and warm the swelling buds.  
 Hence summer has her riches, autumn hence,  
 And hence ev'n winter fills his wither'd hand  
 With blushing fruits, and plenty not his own.\*  
 Fair recompense of labour well bestow'd  
 And wise precaution, which a clime so rude  
 Makes needful still, whose spring is but the child  
 Of churlish winter, in her froward moods  
 Discov'ring much the temper of her fire.  
 For oft, as if in her the stream of mild  
 Maternal nature had revers'd its course,  
 She brings her infants forth with many smiles,  
 But once deliver'd, kills them with a frown.  
 He therefore, timely warn'd, himself supplies  
 Her want of care, screening and keeping warm  
 The plenteous bloom, that no rough blast may sweep  
 His garlands from the boughs. Again, as oft

I

As

\* Miraturque novos fructus et non sua poma.

As the sun peeps and vernal airs breathe mild,  
 The fence withdrawn, he gives them ev'ry beam,  
 And spreads his hopes before the blaze of day.

To raise the prickly and green-coated gourd  
 So grateful to the palate, and when rare  
 So coveted, else base and disesteem'd—  
 Food for the vulgar merely—is an art  
 That toiling ages have but just matured,  
 And at this moment unassay'd in song.  
 Yet gnats have had, and frogs and mice long since  
 Their eulogy; those sang the Mantuan bard,  
 And these the Grecian in ennobling strains,  
 And in thy numbers, Phillips, shines for ay  
 The solitary shilling. Pardon then  
 Ye sage dispensers of poetic fame!  
 Th' ambition of one meaner far, whose pow'rs  
 Presuming an attempt not less sublime,  
 Pant for the praise of dressing to the taste

Of critic appetite, no sordid fare,  
A cucumber, while costly yet and scarce.

The stable yields a stercorarious heap  
Impregnated with quick fermenting salts,  
And potent to resist the freezing blast.  
For 'ere the beech and elm have cast their leaf  
Decidu'ous, and when now November dark  
Checks vegetation in the torpid plant  
Exposed to his cold breath, the task begins.  
Warily therefore, and with prudent heed  
He seeks a favor'd spot. That where he builds  
Th' agglomerated pile, his frame may front  
The sun's meridian disk, and at the back  
Enjoy close shelter, wall, or reeds, or hedge  
Impervious to the wind. First he bids spread  
Dry fern or litter'd hay, that may imbibe  
Th' ascending damps; then leisurely impose  
And lightly, shaking it with agile hand  
From the full fork, the saturated straw.

What longest binds the closest, forms secure  
 The shapely side, that as it rises takes  
 By just degrees an overhanging breadth,  
 Shelt'ring the base with its projected eaves.  
 Th' uplifted frame compact at ev'ry joint,  
 And overlaid with clear translucent glass  
 He settles next upon the sloping mount,  
 Whose sharp declivity shoots off secure  
 From the dash'd pane the deluge as it falls.  
 He shuts it close, and the first labor ends.  
 Thrice must the voluble and restless earth  
 Spin round upon her axle, 'ere the warmth  
 Slow gathering in the midst, through the square mass  
 Diffused, attain the surface. When behold !  
 A pestilent and most corrosive steam,  
 Like a gross fog Bœotian, rising fast,  
 And fast condensed upon the dewy fash,  
 Asks egress ; which obtained, the overcharged  
 And drench'd conservatory breathes abroad  
 In volumes wheeling slow, the vapor dank,

And

And purified, rejoices to have lost  
 Its foul inhabitant. But to assuage  
 Th' impatient fervor which it first conceives  
 Within its reeking bosom, threat'ning death  
 To his young hopes, requires discreet delay.  
 Experience, slow preceptress, teaching oft  
 The way to glory by miscarriage foul,  
 Must prompt him, and admonish how to catch  
 Th' auspicious moment, when the temper'd heat  
 Friendly to vital motion, may afford  
 Soft fomentation, and invite the seed.  
 The seed selected wisely, plump and smooth  
 And glossy, he commits to pots of size  
 Diminutive, well fill'd with well prepar'd  
 And fruitful soil, that has been treasur'd long,  
 And drunk no moisture from the dripping clouds.  
 These on the warm and genial earth that hides  
 The smeking manure and o'erspreads it all,  
 He places lightly, and as time subdues  
 The rage of fermentation, plunges deep

In the soft medium, 'till they stand immers'd,  
 Then rise the tender germs upstarting quick  
 And spreading wide their spongy lobes, at first  
 Pale, wan, and livid, but assuming soon,  
 If fann'd by balmy and nutritious air  
 Strain'd through the friendly mats, a vivid green,  
 Two leaves produced, two rough indented leaves,  
 Cautious, he pinches from the second stalk  
 A pimple, that portends a future sprout,  
 And interdicts its growth. Thence straight succeed  
 The branches, sturdy to his utmost wish,  
 Prolific all, and harbingers of more.  
 The crowded roots demand enlargement now  
 And transplantation in an ampler space.  
 Indulged in what they wish, they soon supply  
 Large foliage, overshadowing golden flowers,  
 Blown on the summit of th' apparent fruit.  
 These have their sexes, and when summer shines  
 The bee transports the fertilizing meal  
 From flow'r to flow'r, and ev'n the breathing air



Waits the rich prize to its appointed use.  
 Not so when winter scowls. Assistant art  
 Then acts in nature's office, brings to pass  
 The glad espousals and insures the crop.

Grudge not ye rich (since luxury must have  
 His dainties, and the world's more num'rous half  
 Lives by contriving delicates for you)  
 Grudge not the cost. Ye little know the cares,  
 The vigilance, the labor and the skill  
 That day and night are exercised, and hang  
 Upon the ticklish balance of suspense,  
 That ye may garnish your profuse regales  
 With summer fruits brought forth by wintry funs.  
 Ten thousand dangers lie in wait to thwart  
 The process. Heat and cold, and wind and steam,  
 Moisture and drought, mice, worms, and swarming flies  
 Minute as dust and numberless, oft work  
 Dire disappointment that admits no cure,  
 And which no care can obviate. It were long,

Too long to tell th' expedients and the shifts  
 Which he that fights a season so severe  
 Devises, while he guards his tender trust,  
 And oft, at last, in vain. The learn'd and wise  
 Sarcastic would exclaim, and judge the song  
 Cold as its theme, and like its theme, the fruit  
 Of too much labor, worthless when produced.

Who loves a garden, loves a green-house too.  
 Unconscious of a less propitious clime  
 There blooms exotic beauty, warm and snug,  
 While the winds whistle and the snows descend.  
 The spiry myrtle with unwith'ring leaf  
 Shines there and flourishes. The golden boast  
 Of Portugal and western India there,  
 The ruddier orange and the paler lime  
 Peep through their polish'd foliage at the storm,  
 And seem to smile at what they need not fear.  
 Th' amomum there with intermingling flow'rs  
 And cherries hangs her twigs. Geranium boasts

Her crimson honors, and the spangled beau  
 Ficoides, glitters bright the winter long.  
 All plants of ev'ry leaf that can endure  
 The winter's frown if screen'd from his shrewd bite,  
 Live there and prosper. Those Aufonia claims,  
 Levantine regions these; th' Azores send  
 Their jessamine, her jessamine remote  
 Caffraia; foreigners from many lands  
 They form one social shade, as if convened  
 By magic summons of th' Orphean lyre.  
 Yet just arrangement, rarely brought to pass  
 But by a master's hand, disposing well  
 The gay diversities of leaf and flow'r,  
 Must lend its aid t' illustrate all their charms,  
 And dress the regular yet various scene.  
 Plant behind plant aspiring, in the van  
 The dwarfish, in the rear retired, but still  
 Sublime above the rest, the statelier stand.  
 So once were ranged the sons of ancient Rome,  
 A noble show! while Roscius trod the stage;  
 And so, while Garrick as renown'd as he,

The sons of Albion; fearing each to lose  
 Some note of Nature's music from his lips,  
 And covetous of Shakespeare's beauty seen  
 In ev'ry flash of his far-beaming eye.  
 Nor taste alone and well contrived display  
 Suffice to give the marshall'd ranks the grace  
 Of their complete effect. Much yet remains  
 Unfung, and many cares are yet behind  
 And more laborious. Cares on which depends  
 Their vigor, injured soon, not soon restored.  
 The foil must be renew'd, which often wash'd  
 Loses its treasure of salubrious salts,  
 And disappoints the roots; the slender roots  
 Close interwoven where they meet the vase  
 Must smooth be shorn away; the sapless branch  
 Must fly before the knife; the wither'd leaf  
 Must be detach'd, and where it strews the floor  
 Swept with a woman's neatness, breeding else  
 Contagion, and disseminating death.  
 Discharge but these kind offices, (and who

Would

Would spare, that loves them, offices like these?)  
 Well they reward the toil. The sight is pleased,  
 The scent regaled, each odorif'rous leaf,  
 Each opening blossom freely breathes abroad  
 Its gratitude, and thanks him with its sweets.

So manifold, all pleasing in their kind,  
 All healthful, are th' employs of rural life,  
 Reiterated as the wheel of time  
 Runs round, still ending, and beginning still,  
 Nor are these all. To deck the shapely knoll  
 That softly swell'd and gayly dress'd, appears  
 A flow'ry island from the dark green lawn  
 Emerging, must be deemed a labor due  
 To no mean hand, and asks the touch of taste,  
 Here also gratefull mixture of well match'd  
 And sorted hues, (each giving each relief,  
 And by contrasted beauty shining more)  
 Is needful. Strength may wield the pond'rous spade,  
 May turn the clod, and wheel the compost home,

But

But elegance, chief grace the garden shows  
 And most attractive, is the fair result  
 Of thought, the creature of a polish'd mind,  
 Without it, all is Gothic as the scene  
 To which th' insipid citizen resorts  
 Near yonder heath; where industry mispent,  
 But proud of his uncouth ill-chosen task,  
 Has made a heav'n on earth. With suns and moons  
 Of close-ramm'd stones has charged th' incumber'd soil,  
 And fairly laid the Zodiac in the dust.  
 He therefore who would see his flow'rs disposed  
 Sightly and in just order, 'ere he gives  
 The beds the trusted treasure of their seeds  
 Forecasts the future whole. That when the scene  
 Shall break into its preconceived display,  
 Each for itself, and all as with one voice  
 Conspiring, may attest his bright design.  
 Nor even then, dismissing as perform'd  
 His pleasant work, may he suppose it done.  
 Few self-supported flow'rs endure the wind

Uninjured,

Uninjured, but expect th' upholding aid  
 Of the smooth-shaven prop, and neatly tied  
 Are wedded thus like beauty to old age,  
 For int'rest sake, the living to the dead.  
 Some cloath the foil that feeds them, far diffused  
 And lowly creeping, modest and yet fair,  
 Like virtue, thriving most where little seen.  
 Some more aspiring catch the neighbour shrub  
 With clasping tendrils, and invest his branch  
 Else unadorn'd, with many a gay festoon  
 And fragrant chaplet, recompensing well  
 The strength they borrow with the grace they lend.  
 All hate the rank society of weeds  
 Noisome, and ever greedy to exhaust  
 Th' impov'rish'd earth ; an overbearing race,  
 That like the multitude made faction-mad  
 Disturb good order, and degrade true worth.

Oh blest seclusion from a jarring world  
 Which he thus occupied, enjoys ! Retreat

Cannot

Cannot indeed to guilty man restore  
 Lost innocence, or cancel follies past,  
 But it has peace, and much secures the mind  
 From all assaults of evil, proving still  
 A faithful barrier, not o'erleap'd with ease  
 By vicious custom, raging uncontroul'd  
 Abroad, and desolating public life.  
 When fierce temptation seconded within  
 By traitor appetite, and arm'd with darts  
 Temper'd in hell, invades the throbbing breast,  
 To combat may be glorious, and success  
 Perhaps may crown us, but to fly is safe.  
 Had I the choice of sublunary good,  
 What could I wish, that I possess not here?  
 Health, leisure, means t' improve it, friendship, peace,  
 No loose or wanton, though a wand'ring muse,  
 And constant occupation without care.  
 Thus blest, I draw a picture of that bliss;  
 Hopeless indeed that dissipated minds,  
 And profligate abusers of a world



Created fair so much in vain for them,  
 Should seek the guiltless joys that I describe  
 Allured by my report. But sure no less  
 That self-condemn'd they must neglect the prize,  
 And what they will not taste, must yet approve.  
 What we admire we praise. And when we praise  
 Advance it into notice, that its worth  
 Acknowledg'd, others may admire it too.  
 I therefore recommend, though at the risk  
 Of popular disgust, yet boldly still,  
 The cause of piety and sacred truth  
 And virtue, and those scenes which God ordain'd  
 Should best secure them and promote them most ;  
 Scenes that I love, and with regret perceive  
 Forsaken, or through folly not enjoyed.  
 Pure is the nymph, though lib'ral of her smiles,  
 And chaste, though unconfined, whom I extoll.  
 Not as the prince in Sushan, when he call'd  
 Vain-glorious of her charms his Vashti forth  
 To grace the full pavilion. His design

Was but to boast his own peculiar good;  
 Which all might view with envy, none partake,  
 My charmer is not mine alone; my sweets  
 And she that sweetens all my bitters too,  
 Nature, enchanting Nature, in whose form  
 And lineaments divine I trace a hand  
 That errs not, and find raptures still renew'd,  
 Is free to all men, universal prize.  
 Strange that so fair a creature should yet want  
 Admirers, and be destin'd to divide  
 With meaner objects, ev'n the few she finds.  
 Stripp'd of her ornaments, her leaves and flow'rs,  
 She loses all her influence. Cities then  
 Attract us, and neglected Nature pines  
 Abandon'd, as unworthy of our love.  
 But are not wholesome airs, though unperfum'd  
 By roses, and clear suns though scarcely felt,  
 And groves if unharmonious, yet secure  
 From clamour, and whose very silence charms,  
 To be preferr'd to smoke, to the eclipse

That

That Metropolitan volcano's make,  
 Whose Stygian throats breathe darkness all day long,  
 And to the stir of commerce, driving slow,  
 And thund'ring loud, with his ten thousand wheels?  
 They would be, were not madness in the head  
 And folly in the heart; were England now  
 What England was, plain, hospitable, kind,  
 And undebauch'd. But we have bid farewell  
 To all the virtues of those better days,  
 And all their honest pleasures. Mansions once  
 Knew their own masters, and laborious hinds  
 That had surviv'd the father, serv'd the son.  
 Now the legitimate and rightful Lord  
 Is but a transient guest, newly arriv'd  
 And soon to be supplanted. He that saw  
 His patrimonial timber cast its leaf,  
 Sells the last scantling, and transfers the price  
 To some shrew'd sharper, 'ere it buds again.  
 Estates are landscapes, gazed upon awhile,  
 Then advertis'd, and auctioneer'd away.

The country starves, and they that feed th' o'ercharged  
 And forfeited lew'd town with her fair dues,  
 By a just judgment strip and starve themselves.  
 The wings that waft our riches out of sight  
 Grow on the gamester's elbows, and th' alert  
 And nimble motion of those restless joints  
 That never tire, soon fans them all away.  
 Improvement too, the idol of the age,  
 Is fed with many a victim. Lo! he comes—  
 The omnipotent magician; Brown appears.  
 Down falls the venerable pile, th' abode  
 Of our forefathers, a grave whisker'd race,  
 But tasteless. Springs a palace in its stead,  
 But in a distant spot; where more exposed  
 It may enjoy th' advantage of the north  
 And agueish East, till time shall have transform'd  
 Those naked acres to a shelt'ring grove.  
 He speaks. The lake in front becomes a lawn,  
 Woods vanish, hills subside, and vallies rise,  
 And streams as if created for his use,

Pursue the track of his directing wand  
 Sinuous or strait, now rapid and now slow,  
 Now murm'ring soft, now roaring in cascades,  
 Ev'n as he bids. Th' enraptur'd owner smiles.  
 'Tis finish'd. And yet finish'd as it seems, it  
 Still wants a grace, th' loveliest it could show,  
 A mine to satisfy the enormous cost.  
 Drain'd to the last poor item of his wealth  
 He sighs, departs, and leaves the accomplished plan  
 That he has touch'd, retouch'd, many a long day  
 Labor'd, and many a night pursued in dreams,  
 Just when it meets his hopes, and proves the heav'n  
 He wanted, for a wealthier to enjoy.  
 And now perhaps the glorious hour is come,  
 When having no stake left, no pledge t' indear  
 Her int'rests, or that gives her sacred cause  
 A moment's operation on his love,  
 He burns with most intense and flagrant zeal  
 To serve his country. Ministerial grace  
 Deals him out money from the public chest,

Or if that mine be shut, some private purse  
 Supplies his need with an usurious loan  
 To be refunded duely, when his vote  
 Well-managed, shall have earn'd its worthy price.  
 Oh innocent compared with arts like these,  
 Crape and cock'd pistol and the whistling ball  
 Sent through the trav'lers temples ! he that finds  
 One drop of heav'n's sweet mercy in his cup,  
 Can dig, beg, rot, and perish well-content,  
 So he may wrap himself in honest rags  
 At his last gasp ; but could not for a world  
 Fish up his dirty and dependent bread  
 From pools and ditches of the commonwealth,  
 Sordid and sick'ning at his own success,

Ambition, av'rice, penury incurr'd  
 By endless riot ; vanity, the lust  
 Of pleasure and variety, dispatch  
 As duely as the swallows disappear,  
 The world of wand'ring knights and squires to town

London ingulphs them all. The shark is there  
 And the shark's prey. The spendthrift and the leech  
 That sucks him. There the sycophant and he  
 That with bare-headed and obsequious bows  
 Begs a warm office, doom'd to a cold jail  
 And groat per diem if his patron frown.  
 The levee swarms, as if in golden pomp  
 Were character'd on ev'ry statesman's door,  
 "BATTER'D AND BANKRUPT FORTUNES MENDED HERE"  
 These are the charms that sully and eclipse  
 The charms of nature. 'Tis the cruel gripe  
 That lean hard-handed poverty inflicts,  
 The hope of better things, the chance to win,  
 The wish to shine, the thirst to be amused,  
 That at the sound of Winter's hoary wing,  
 Unpeople all our counties, of such herds  
 Of flutt'ring, loit'ring, cringing, begging, loose  
 And wanton vagrants, as make London, vast  
 And boundless as it is, a crowded coop.

Oh thou resort and mart of all the earth,  
Chequer'd with all complexions of mankind,  
And spotted with all crimes ; in whom I see  
Much that I love, and more that I admire,  
And all that I abhor ; thou freckled fair  
That pleases and yet shocks me, I can laugh  
And I can weep, can hope, and can despond,  
Feel wrath and pity when I think on thee !  
Ten righteous would have saved a city once,  
And thou hast many righteous.—Well for thee—  
That salt preserves thee ; more corrupted else,  
And therefore more obnoxious at this hour,  
Than Sodom in her day had pow'r to be,  
For whom God heard his Abr'am plead in vain.



## ARGUMENT of the FOURTH BOOK.

*The post comes in.—The news-paper is read.—The world contemplated at a distance.—Address to Winter.—The amusements of a rural winter evening compared with the fashionable ones. Address to evening.—A brown study.—Fall of snow in the evening.—The waggoner —A poor family piece.—The rural thief.—Public houses.—The multitude of them censured.—The farmer's daughter, what she was.—What she is.—The simplicity of country manners almost lost.—Causes of the change.—Desertion of the country by the rich.—Neglect of magistrates.—The militia principally in fault.—The new recruit and his transformation.—Reflection on bodies corporate.—The love of rural objects natural to all, and never to be totally extinguished.*

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B O O K I V.

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THE WINTER EVENING.

HARK! 'tis the twanging horn! o'er yonder  
bridge

That with its wearisome but needful length

Bestrides the wintry flood, in which the moon

Sees her unwrinkled face reflected bright,

He comes, the herald of a noisy world,

With spatter'd boots, strapp'd waist, and frozen locks,

News from all nations lumb'ring at his back.

True to his charge the close-pack'd load behind,

Yet careless what he brings, his one concern

Is to conduct it to the destin'd inn,

And

And having dropp'd th' expected bag—pafs on,  
 He whistles as he goes, light-hearted wretch,  
 Cold and yet cheerful : messenger of grief  
 Perhaps to thousands, and of joy to some,  
 To him indifferent whether grief or joy.  
 Houses in ashes, and the fall of stocks,  
 Births, deaths, and marriages, epistles wet  
 With tears that trickled down the writers cheeks  
 Fast as the periods from his fluent quill,  
 Or charged with am'rous sighs of absent swains  
 Or nymphs responsive, equally affect  
 His horse and him, unconscious of them all.  
 But oh th' important budget ! usher'd in  
 With such heart-shaking music, who can say  
 What are its tidings ? have our troops awaked ?  
 Or do they still, as if with opium drugg'd,  
 Snore to the murmurs of th' Atlantic wave ?  
 Is India free ? and does she wear her plumed  
 And jewelled turban with a smile of peace,  
 Or do we grind her still ? the grand debate,

The popular harrangue, the tart reply,  
 The logic and the wisdom and the wit  
 And the loud laugh—I long to know them all;  
 I burn to set th' imprison'd wranglers free,  
 And give them voice and utt'rance once again.

Now stir the fire, and close the shutters fast,  
 Let fall the curtains, wheel the sofa round,  
 And while the bubbling and loud-hissing urn  
 Throws up a steamy column, and the cups  
 That cheer but not inebriate, wait on each,  
 So let us welcome peaceful evening in.  
 Not such his evening, who with shining face  
 Sweats in the crowded theatre, and squeezed  
 And bored with elbow-points through both his sides,  
 Out scolds the ranting actor on the stage.  
 Nor his, who patient stands 'till his feet throb  
 And his head thumps, to feed upon the breath  
 Of patriots bursting with heroic rage,  
 Or placemen, all tranquillity and smiles.

This

This folio of four pages, happy work !  
 Which not ev'n critics criticise, that holds  
 Inquisitive attention while I read  
 Fast bound in chains of silence, which the fair,  
 Though eloquent themselves, yet fear to break,  
 What is it but a map of busy life  
 Its fluctuations and its vast concerns ?  
 Here runs the mountainous and craggy ridge  
 That tempts ambition. On the summit, see,  
 The seals of office glitter in his eyes ;  
 He climbs, he pants, he grasps them. At his heels,  
 Close at his heels a demagogue ascends,  
 And with a dext'rous jerk soon twists him down  
 And wins them, but to lose them in his turn.  
 Here rills of oily eloquence in soft  
 Mæanders lubricate the course they take ;  
 The modest speaker is ashamed and grieved  
 T' engross a moment's notice, and yet begs,  
 Begs a propitious ear for his poor thoughts,  
 However trivial all that he conceives.

Sweet bashfulness! it claims, at least, this praise,  
 The dearth of information and good sense  
 That it foretells us, always comes to pass.  
 Cataracts of declamation thunder here,  
 There forests of no-meaning spread the page  
 In which all comprehension wanders lost;  
 While fields of pleasantry amuse us there,  
 With merry descants on a nation's woes.  
 The rest appears a wilderness of strange  
 But gay confusion, roses for the cheeks  
 And lilies for the brows of faded age,  
 Teeth for the toothless, ringlets for the bald,  
 Heav'n, earth, and ocean plunder'd of their sweets,  
 Nectareous essences, Olympian dews,  
 Sermons and city feasts and fav'rite airs,  
 Ætherial journies, submarine exploits,  
 And Katterfelto with his hair on end  
 At his own wonders, wond'ring for his bread.

'Tis pleasant through the loop-holes of retreat  
 To peep at such a world. To see the stir

Of the great Babel and not feel the crowd.  
 To hear the roar she sends through all her gates  
 At a safe distance, where the dying sound  
 Falls a soft murmur on th' uninjured ear.  
 Thus sitting and surveying thus at ease  
 The globe and its concerns, I seem advanced  
 To some secure and more than mortal height,  
 That lib'rates and exempts me from them all.  
 It turns submitted to my view, turns round  
 With all its generations ; I behold  
 The tumult and am still. The sound of war  
 Has lost its terrors 'ere it reaches me,  
 Grieves but alarms me not. I mourn the pride  
 And av'rice that make man a wolf to man,  
 Hear the faint echo of those brazen throats  
 By which he speaks the language of his heart,  
 And sigh, but never tremble at the sound.  
 He travels and expatiates, as the bee  
 From flow'r to flow'r, so he from land to land ;  
 The manners, customs, policy of all

Pay contribution to the store he gleans,  
 He sucks intelligence in ev'ry clime,  
 And spreads the honey of his deep research  
 At his return, a rich repast for me.  
 He travels and I too. I tread his deck,  
 Ascend his topmast, through his peering eyes  
 Discover countries, with a kindred heart  
 Suffer his woes and share in his escapes,  
 While fancy, like the finger of a clock,  
 Runs the great circuit, and is still at home.

Oh Winter ! ruler of th' inverted year,  
 Thy scatter'd hair with fleet like ashes fill'd,  
 Thy breath congeal'd upon thy lips, thy cheeks  
 Fring'd with a beard made white with other snows  
 Than those of age; thy forehead wrapt in clouds,  
 A leafless branch thy sceptre, and thy throne  
 A sliding car indebted to no wheels,  
 But urged by storms along its slipp'ry way;  
 I love thee, all unlovely as thou seem'st,

And



And dreaded as thou art. Thou hold'st the sun  
 A pris'ner in the yet undawning East,  
 Short'ning his journey between morn and noon,  
 And hurrying him impatient of his stay  
 Down to the rosy West. But kindly still  
 Compensating his loss with added hours  
 Of social converse and instructive ease,  
 And gathering at short notice in one group  
 The family dispersed, and fixing thought  
 Not less dispersed by day light and its cares,  
 I crown thee King of intimate delights,  
 Fireside enjoyments, home-born happiness,  
 And all the comforts that the lowly roof  
 Of undisturb'd retirement, and the hours  
 Of long uninterrupted evening know.  
 No ratt'ling wheels stop short before these gates,  
 No powder'd pert proficient in the art  
 Of sounding an alarm, assaults these doors  
 'Till the street rings. No stationary steeds  
 Cough their own knell, while heedless of the sound

The silent circle fan themselves, and quake.  
 But here the needle plies its busy task,  
 The pattern grows, the well-depicted flow'r  
 Wrought patiently into the snowy lawn  
 Unfolds its bosom, buds and leaves and sprigs  
 And curling tendrils, gracefully disposed,  
 Follow the nimble finger of the fair,  
 A wreath that cannot fade, of flow'rs that blow  
 With most success when all besides decay.  
 The poet's or historian's page, by one  
 Made vocal for th' amusement of the rest;  
 The sprightly lyre, whose treasure of sweet sounds  
 The touch from many a trembling chord shakes out;  
 And the clear voice symphonious, yet distinct,  
 And in the charming strife triumphant still,  
 Beguile the night, and set a keener edge  
 On female industry; the threaded steel  
 Flies swiftly, and unfelt the task proceeds,  
 The volume closed, the customary rites  
 Of the last meal commence. A Roman meal.

Such as the mistress of the world once found  
 Delicious, when her patriots of high note,  
 Perhaps by moonlight, at their humble doors,  
 And under an old oak's domestic shade  
 Enjoyed, spare feast! a radish and an egg,  
 Discourse ensues, not trivial, yet not dull,  
 Nor such as with a frown forbids the play  
 Of fancy, or proscribes the sound of mirth.  
 Nor do we madly, like an impious world,  
 Who deem religion frenzy, and the God  
 That made them an intruder on their joys,  
 Start at his awful name, or deem his praise  
 A jarring note. Themes of a graver tone  
 Exciting oft our gratitude and love,  
 While we retrace with mem'ry's pointing wand  
 That calls the past to our exact review,  
 The dangers we have scaped, the broken snare,  
 The disappointed foe, deliv'rance found  
 Unlook'd for, life preserved and peace restored,  
 Fruits of omnipotent eternal love.

Oh evenings worthy of the Gods ! exclaim'd  
 The Sabine bard. Oh evenings, I reply,  
 More to be prized and coveted than yours,  
 As more illumin'd and with nobler truths,  
 That I and mine and those we love, enjoy.

Is winter hideous in a garb like this ?  
 Needs he the tragic fur, the smoke of lamps,  
 The pent-up breath of an unfav'ry throng  
 To thaw him into feeling, or the smart  
 And snappish dialogue that flippant wits  
 Call comedy, to prompt him with a smile ?  
 The self-complacent actor when he views  
 (Stealing a side long glance at a full house)  
 The slope of faces from the floor to th' roof,  
 (As if one master-spring controul'd them all)  
 Relax'd into an universal grin,  
 Sees not a count'nance there that speaks a joy  
 Half so refin'd or so sincere as ours.  
 Cards were superfluous here, with all the tricks

That idleness has ever yet contrived  
 To fill the void of an unfurnish'd brain,  
 To palliate dullness and give time a shove,  
 Time as he passes us, has a dove's wing,  
 Unfoiled and swift and of a silken sound.  
 But the world's time, is time in masquerade.  
 Theirs, should I paint him, has his pinions fledg'd  
 With motley plumes, and where the peacock shows  
 His azure eyes, is tintured black and red  
 With spots quadrangular of di'mond form,  
 Enfanguin'd hearts, clubs typical of strife,  
 And spades, the emblem of untimely graves.  
 What should be, and what was an hour-glass once  
 Becomes a dice-box, and a billiard mast  
 Well does the work of his destructive scythe.  
 Thus deck'd he charms a world whom fashion blinds  
 To his true worth, most pleas'd when idle most,  
 Whose only happy are their wasted hours.  
 Ev'n misses, at whose age their mother's wore  
 The back-string and the bib, assume the dress

Of womanhood, sit pupils in the school  
 Of card-devoted time, and night by night  
 Plac'd at some vacant corner of the board,  
 Learn ev'ry trick, and soon play all the game.  
 But truce with censure. Roving as I rove,  
 Where shall I find an end, or how proceed?  
 As he that travels far, oft turns aside  
 To view some rugged rock or mould'ring tow'r,  
 Which seen delights him not; then coming home,  
 Describes and prints it, that the world may know  
 How far he went for what was nothing worth;  
 So I with brush in hand and pallet spread  
 With colours mixt for a far diff'rent use,  
 Paint cards and dolls, and ev'ry idle thing  
 That fancy finds in her excursive flights.

Come evening once again, season of peace,  
 Return sweet evening, and continue long!  
 Methinks I see thee in the streaky west,  
 With matron-step slow-moving, while the night

Treads on thy sweeping train ; one hand employ'd  
 In letting fall the curtain of repose  
 On bird and beast, the other charged for man  
 With sweet oblivion of the cares of day ;  
 Not sumptuously adorn'd, nor needing aid  
 Like homely featur'd night, of clust'ring gems,  
 A star or two just twinkling on thy brow  
 Suffices thee ; save that the moon is thine  
 No less than hers, not worn indeed on high  
 With ostentatious pageantry, but set  
 With modest grandeur in thy purple zone,  
 Resplendent less, but of an ampler round.  
 Come then, and thou shalt find thy vot'ry calm  
 Or make me so. Composure is thy gift.  
 And whether I devote thy gentle hours  
 To books, to music, or the poets toil,  
 To weaving nets for bird-alluring fruit ;  
 Or twining silken threads round iv'ry reels  
 When they command whom man was born to please,  
 I slight thee not, but make thee welcome still.

Just when our drawing-rooms begin to blaze  
 With lights by clear reflection multiplied  
 From many a mirrour, in which he of Gath  
 Goliah, might have seen his giant bulk  
 Whole without stooping, tow'ring crest and all,  
 My pleasures too begin. But me perhaps  
 The glowing hearth may satisfy awhile  
 With faint illumination that uplifts  
 The shadow to the cieling, there by fits  
 Dancing uncouthly to the quiv'ring flame.  
 Not undelightful is an hour to me  
 So spent in parlour twilight ; such a gloom  
 Suits well the thoughtfull or unthinking mind,  
 The mind contemplative, with some new theme  
 Pregnant, or indisposed alike to all.  
 Laugh ye, who boast your more mercurial pow'rs  
 That never feel a stupor, know no pause  
 Nor need one. I am conscious, and confess  
 Fearless, a soul that does not always think.  
 Me oft has fancy ludicrous and wild



Sooth'd with a waking dream of houfes, tow'rs,  
 Trees, churches, and ftrange vifages exprefs'd  
 In the red cinders, while with poring eye  
 I gazed, myfelf creating what I faw.  
 Nor lefs amufed have I quiefcent watch'd  
 The footy films that play upon the bars  
 Pendulous, and foreboding in the view  
 Of fuperftition prophesyng ftill  
 Though ftill deceived, fome ftrangers near approach,  
 'Tis thus the understanding takes repofe  
 In indolent vacuity of thought,  
 And fleeps and is refresh'd. Meanwhile the face  
 Conceals the mood lethargic with a mafk  
 Of deep deliberation, as the man  
 Were talk'd to his full ftrength, abforb'd and loft,  
 Thus oft reclin'd at eafe, I lofe an hour  
 At evening, till at length the freezing blaft  
 That fweeps the bolted fhutter, fummons home  
 The recollected powers, and snapping fhort  
 The glaffy threads with which the fancy weaves

Her brittle toys, restores me to myself.  
 How calm is my recess, and how the frost  
 Raging abroad, and the rough wind, endear  
 The silence and the warmth enjoy'd within.  
 I saw the woods and fields at close of day  
 A variegated show; the meadows green  
 Though faded, and the lands where lately waved  
 The golden harvest, of a mellow brown,  
 Upturn'd so lately by the forceful share.  
 I saw far off the weedy fallows smile  
 With verdure not unprofitable, grazed  
 By flocks fast feeding and selecting each  
 His fav'rite herb; while all the leafless groves  
 That skirt th' horizon wore a fable hue,  
 Scarce noticed in the kindred dusk of eve.  
 To-morrow brings a change, a total change!  
 Which even now, though silently perform'd  
 And slowly, and by most unfelt, the face  
 Of universal nature undergoes.  
 Fast falls a fleecy show'r. The downy flakes

Descending

Descending and with never-ceasing lapse  
 Softly alighting upon all below,  
 Assimilate all objects. Earth receives  
 Gladly the thick'ning mantle, and the green  
 And tender blade that fear'd the chilling blast,  
 Escapes unhurt beneath so warm a veil.

In such a world, so thorny, and where none  
 Finds happiness unblighted, or if found,  
 Without some thistly sorrow at its side,  
 It seems the part of wisdom, and no sin  
 Against the law of love, to measure lots  
 With less distinguish'd than ourselves, that thus  
 We may with patience bear our mod'rate ills,  
 And sympathize with others, suffering more.  
 Ill fares the trav'ler now, and he that stalks  
 In pond'rous boots beside his reeking team.  
 The wain goes heavily, impeded fore  
 By congregated loads adhering close  
 To the clogg'd wheels; and in its sluggish pace

Noiseless,

Noiseless, appears a moving hill of snow,  
 The toiling steeds expand the nostril wide,  
 While ev'ry breath by respiration strong  
 Forced downward, is consolidated soon  
 Upon their jutting chests. He, form'd to bear  
 The pelting brunt of the tempestuous night,  
 With half-shut eyes and pucker'd cheeks, and teeth  
 Presented bare against the storm, plods on.  
 One hand secures his hat, save when with both  
 He brandishes his pliant length of whip,  
 Resounding oft, and never heard in vain.  
 Oh happy ! and in my account, denied  
 That sensibility of pain with which  
 Refinement is endued, thrice happy thou.  
 Thy frame robust and hardy, feels indeed  
 The piercing cold, but feels it unimpair'd.  
 The learned finger never need explore  
 Thy vig'rous pulse, and the unhealthful East,  
 That breathes the spleen, and searches ev'ry bone  
 Of the infirm, is wholesome air to thee.

Thy

Thy days roll on exempt from household care,  
 Thy waggon is thy wife ; and the poor beasts  
 That drag the dull companion to and fro,  
 Thine helpless charge, dependent on thy care.  
 Ah treat them kindly ! rude as thou appear'st  
 Yet show that thou hast mercy, which the great  
 With needless hurry whirl'd from place to place,  
 Humane as they would seem, not always show.

Poor, yet industrious, modest, quiet, neat,  
 Such claim compassion in a night like this,  
 And have a friend in ev'ry feeling heart.  
 Warm'd, while it lasts, by labor, all day long  
 They brave the season, and yet find at eve  
 Ill clad and fed but sparsely time to cool.  
 The frugal housewife trembles when she lights  
 Her scanty stock of brush-wood, blazing clear.  
 But dying soon, like all terrestrial joys.  
 The few small embers left she nurses well,  
 And while her infant race with outspread hands

And

And crowded knees sit cowering o'er the sparks,  
 Retires, content to quake, so they be warm'd.  
 The man feels least, as more inur'd than she  
 To winter, and the current in his veins  
 More briskly moved by his feverer toil ;  
 Yet he too finds his own distress in theirs.  
 The taper soon extinguished, which I saw  
 Dangled along at the cold fingers end  
 Just when the day declined, and the brown loaf  
 Lodged on the shelf half-eaten without fauce  
 Of sav'ry cheese, or butter costlier still,  
 Sleep seems their only refuge. For alas !  
 Where penury is felt the thought is chain'd,  
 And sweet colloquial pleasures are but few.  
 With all this thrift they thrive not. All the care  
 Ingenious parsimony takes, but just  
 Saves the small inventory, bed and stool,  
 Skillet and old carved chest from public sale,  
 They live, and live without extorted alms  
 From grudging hands, but other boast have none

To sooth their honest pride that scorns to beg,  
 Nor comfort else, but in their mutual love.  
 I praise you much, ye meek and patient pair,  
 For ye are worthy; chusing rather far  
 A dry but independent crust, hard-earn'd  
 And eaten with a sigh, than to endure  
 The rugged frowns and insolent rebuffs  
 Of knaves in office, partial in the work  
 Of distribution; lib'ral of their aid  
 To clam'rous importunity in rags,  
 But oft-times deaf to suppliant who would blush  
 To wear a tatter'd garb however coarse,  
 Whom famine cannot reconcile to filth;  
 These ask with painful shyness, and refused  
 Because deserving, silently retire.  
 But be ye of good courage. Time itself  
 Shall much befriend you. Time shall give increase,  
 And all your num'rous progeny well train'd  
 But helpless, in few years shall find their hands,  
 And labor too. Meanwhile ye shall not want

What conscious of your virtues we can spare,  
 Nor what a wealthier than ourselves may fend.  
 I mean the man, who when the distant poor  
 Need help, denies them nothing but his name.

But poverty with most who whimper forth  
 Their long complaints, is self inflicted woe,  
 Th' effect of laziness or sottish waste.  
 Now goes the nightly thief prowling abroad  
 For plunder ; much solicitous how best  
 He may compensate for a day of sloth,  
 By works of darkness and nocturnal wrong.  
 Woe to the gard'ner's pale, the farmer's hedge  
 Plash'd neatly, and secured with driven stakes  
 Deep in the loamy bank. Uptorn by strength  
 Resistless in so bad a cause, but lame  
 To better deeds, he bundles up the spoil  
 An asses burthen, and when laden most  
 And heaviest, light of foot steals fast away.  
 Nor does the boarded hovel better guard



The well stack'd pile of riven logs and roots  
 From his pernicious force. Nor will he leave  
 Unwrench'd the door however well secured,  
 'Where chanticleer amidst his haram sleeps  
 In unsuspecting pomp. Twitched from the perch  
 He gives the princely bird with all his wives  
 To his voracious bag, struggling in vain,  
 And loudly wond'ring at the sudden change.  
 Nor this to feed his own. 'Twere some excuse  
 Did pity of their sufferings warp aside  
 His principle, and tempt him into sin  
 For their support, so destitute. But they  
 Neglected pine at home, themselves, as more  
 Exposed than others, with less scruple made  
 His victims, robb'd of their defenceless all.  
 Cruel is all he does. 'Tis quenchless thirst  
 Of ruinous ebriety that prompts  
 His ev'ry action and imbrutes the man.  
 Oh for a law to noose the villain's neck  
 Who starves his own; Who persecutes the blood

He gave them in his childrens veins, and hates  
And wrongs the woman he has sworn to love.

Pass where we may, through city or through town,  
Village or hamlet of this merry land

Though lean and beggar'd, ev'ry twentieth pace  
Conducts the unguarded nose to such a whiff

Of stale debauch forth-issuing from the styes  
That law has licensed, as makes temp'rance reel.

There sit involved and lost in curling clouds

Of Indian fume, and guzzling deep, the boor,

The lacquey and the groom. The craftsman there

Takes a Lethæan leave of all his toil ;

Smith, cobbler, joiner, he that plies the sheers,

And he that kneads the dough ; all loud alike,

All learned, and all drunk. The fiddle screams

Plaintive and piteous, as it wept and wailed

Its wasted tones and harmony unheard :

Fierce the dispute whate'er the theme. While she,

Fell Discord, arbitress of such debate,

Perch'd on the sign-post, holds with even hand  
 Her undecisive scales. In this she lays  
 A weight of ignorance, in that, of pride,  
 And smiles delighted with th' eternal poise.  
 Dire is the frequent curse and its twin sound  
 The cheek-distending oath, not to be praised  
 As ornamental, musical, polite,  
 Like those which modern senators employ,  
 Whose oath is rhet'ric, and who swear for fame.  
 Behold the schools in which plebeian minds,  
 Once simple, are initiated in arts  
 Which some may practise with politer grace,  
 But none with readier skill! tis here they learn  
 The road that leads from competence and peace  
 To indigence and rapine; till at last  
 Society grown weary of the load,  
 Shakes her incumber'd lap, and casts them out.  
 But censure profits little. Vain th' attempt  
 To advertize in verse a public pest,  
 That like the filth with which the peasant feeds

His hungry acres, stinks and is of use.

Th' excise is fatten'd with the rich result

Of all this riot: And ten thousand casks

For ever dribbling out their base contents,

Touched by the Midas finger of the state,

Bleed gold for Ministers to sport away.

Drink and be mad then. 'Tis your country bids.

Gloriously drunk obey th' important call,

Her cause demands th' assistance of your throats,

Ye all can swallow, and she asks no more.

Would I had fall'n upon those happier days

That poets celebrate. Those golden times

And those Arcadian scenes that Maro sings,

And Sydney, warbler of poetic prose.

Nymphs were Dianas then, and swains had hearts

That felt their virtues. Innocence it seems,

From courts dismiss'd, found shelter in the groves.

The footsteps of simplicity impress'd

Upon the yielding herbage (so they sing)

Then were not all effaced. Then, speech profane  
 And manners profligate were rarely found,  
 Observed as prodigies, and soon reclaim'd.  
 Vain wish ! those days were never. Airy dreams  
 Sat for the picture. And the poet's hand  
 Imparting substance to an empty shade,  
 Imposed a gay delirium for a truth.  
 Grant it. I still must envy them an age  
 That favor'd such a dream, in days like these  
 Impossible, when virtue is so scarce  
 That to suppose a scene where she presides,  
 Is tramontane, and stumbles all belief.  
 No. We are polish'd now. The rural lass  
 Whom once her virgin modesty and grace,  
 Her artless manners and her neat attire  
 So dignified, that she was hardly less  
 Than the fair shepherdess of old romance,  
 Is seen no more. The character is lost.  
 Her head adorn'd with lappets pinn'd aloft  
 And ribbands streaming gay, superbly raised.

And magnified beyond all human size,  
 Indebted to some smart wig-weavers hand  
 For more than half the tresses it sustains ;  
 Her elbows ruffled, and her tott'ring form  
 Ill propp'd upon French heels ; she might be deemed  
 (But that the basket dangling on her arm  
 Interprets her more truly) of a rank  
 Too proud for dairy-work or sale of eggs.  
 Expect her soon with foot-boy at her heels,  
 No longer blushing for her aukward load,  
 Her train and her umbrella all her care.

The town has tinged the country. And the stain  
 Appears a spot upon a vestal's robe,  
 The worse for what it soils. The fashion runs  
 Down into scenes still rural, but alas !  
 Scenes rarely graced with rural manners now.  
 Time was when in the pastoral retreat  
 Th' unguarded door was safe. Men did not watch  
 T' invade another's right, or guard their own.

Then sleep was undisturb'd by fear, unscared  
 By drunken howlings; and the chilling tale  
 Of midnight murder was a wonder heard  
 With doubtful credit, told to frighten babes.  
 But farewell now to unsuspecting nights  
 And slumbers unalarm'd. Now 'ere you sleep  
 See that your polish'd arms be prim'd with care,  
 And drop the night-bolt. Ruffians are abroad,  
 And the first larum of the cock's shrill throat  
 May prove a trumpet, summoning your ear  
 To horrid sounds of hostile feet within.  
 Ev'n day-light has its dangers. And the walk  
 Through pathless wastes and woods, unconscious once  
 Of other tenants than melodious birds  
 Or harmless flocks, is hazardous and bold.  
 Lamented change ! to which full many a cause  
 Inveterate, hopeless of a cure, conspires.  
 The course of human things from good to ill,  
 From ill to worse, is fatal, never fails.  
 Increase of pow'r begets increase of wealth,

Wealth luxury, and luxury excess ;  
 Excess, the scrophulous and itchy plague  
 That seizes first the opulent, descends  
 To the next rank contagious, and in time  
 Taints downward all the graduated scale  
 Of order, from the chariot to the plough.  
 The rich, and they that have an arm to check  
 The license of the lowest in degree,  
 Desert their office ; and themselves intent  
 On pleasure, haunt the capital, and thus,  
 To all the violence of lawless hands  
 Resign the scenes their presence might protect.  
 Authority herself not seldom sleeps,  
 Though resident, and witness of the wrong.  
 The plump convivial parson often bears  
 The magisterial sword in vain, and lays  
 His rev'ence and his worship both to rest  
 On the same cushion of habitual sloth.  
 Perhaps timidity restrains his arm,  
 When he should strike, he trembles, and sets free,



Himself enslaved by terror of the band,  
 Th' audacious convict whom he dares not bind.  
 Perhaps, though by profession ghostly pure,  
 He too may have his vice, and sometimes prove  
 Less dainty than becomes his grave outside,  
 In lucrative concerns. Examine well  
 His milk-white hand. The palm is hardly clean—  
 But here and there an ugly smutch appears.  
 Foh! 'twas a bribe that left it. He has touched  
 Corruption. Who so seeks an audit here  
 Propitious, pays his tribute, game or fish,  
 Wildfowl or ven'son, and his errand speeds.

But faster far and more than all the rest  
 A noble cause, which none who bears a spark  
 Of public virtue, ever wish'd removed,  
 Works the deplor'd and mischievous effect,  
 'Tis universal soldiership has stabb'd  
 The heart of merit in the meaner class.  
 Arms through the vanity and brainless rage

Of those that bear them in whatever cause,  
 Seem most at variance with all moral good,  
 And incompatible with serious thought.  
 The clown, the child of nature, without guile,  
 Blest with an infant's ignorance of all  
 But his own simple pleasures, now and then  
 A wrestling match, a foot-race, or a fair,  
 Is ballotted, and trembles at the news.  
 Sheepish he doffs his hat, and mumbling swears  
 A Bible-oath to be whate'er they please,  
 To do he knows not what. The task perform'd,  
 That instant he becomes the serjeant's care,  
 His pupil, and his torment, and his jest.  
 His aukward gait, his introverted toes,  
 Bent knees, round shoulders, and dejected looks,  
 Procure him many a curse. By slow degrees,  
 Unapt to learn and formed of stubborn stuff,  
 He yet by slow degrees puts off himself,  
 Grows conscious of a change, and likes it well.  
 He stands erect, his slouch becomes a walk,

He

He steps right onward, martial in his air  
 His form and movement; is as smart above  
 As meal and larded locks can make him; wears  
 His hat or his plumed helmet with a grace,  
 And his three years of heroship expired,  
 Returns indignant to the slighted plough.  
 He hates the field in which no fife or drum  
 Attends him, drives his cattle to a march,  
 And fights for the smart comrades he has left.  
 'Twere well if his exterior change were all—  
 But with his clumsy port the wretch has lost  
 His ignorance and harmless manners too.  
 To swear, to game, to drink, to shew at home  
 By lewdness, idleness, and sabbath-breach,  
 The great proficiency he made abroad,  
 T' astonish and to grieve his gazing friends,  
 To break some maiden's and his mother's heart,  
 To be a pest where he was useful once,  
 Are his sole aim, and all his glory now.

Man in society is like a flow'r  
 Blown in its native bed. 'Tis there alone  
 His faculties expanded in full bloom  
 Shine out, there only reach their proper use.  
 But man associated and leagued with man  
 By regal warrant, or self-joined by bond  
 For interest-fake, or swarming into clans  
 Beneath one head for purposes of war,  
 Like flow'rs selected from the rest; and bound  
 And bundled close to fill some crowded vase,  
 Fades rapidly, and by compression marred  
 Contracts defilement not to be endured.  
 Hence charter'd boroughs are such public plagues,  
 And burghers, men immaculate perhaps  
 In all their private functions, once combined  
 Become a loathsome body, only fit  
 For dissolution, hurtful to the main.  
 Hence merchants, unimpeachable of sin  
 Against the charities of domestic life,  
 Incorporated, seem at once to lose

Their

Their nature, and disclaiming all regard  
 For mercy and the common rights of man,  
 Build factories with blood, conducting trade  
 At the sword's point, and dying the white robe  
 Of innocent commercial justice red.

Hence too the field of glory, as the world  
 Misdeems it, dazzled by its bright array,  
 With all the majesty of its thund'ring pomp,  
 Enchanting music and immortal wreaths,  
 Is but a school where thoughtlessness is taught  
 On principle, where foppery atones  
 For folly, gallantry for ev'ry vice.

But slighted as it is, and by the great  
 Abandon'd, and, which still I more regret,  
 Infected with the manners and the modes  
 It knew not once, the country wins me still.  
 I never fram'd a wish, or form'd a plan  
 That flatter'd me with hopes of earthly blifs,  
 But there I laid the scene. There early stray'd

My fancy, 'ere yet liberty of choice  
 Had found me, or the hope of being free.  
 My very dreams were rural, rural too  
 The first-born efforts of my youthful muse  
 Sportive, and jingling her poetic bells  
 'Ere yet her ear was mistress of their pow'rs.  
 No bard could please me but whose lyre was tuned  
 To Nature's praises. Heroes and their feats  
 Fatigued me, never weary of the pipe  
 Of Tityrus, assembling as he sang  
 The rustic throng beneath his fav'rite beech.  
 Then Milton had indeed a poet's charms.  
 New to my taste, his Paradise surpass'd  
 The struggling efforts of my boyish tongue  
 To speak its excellence; I danced for joy.  
 I marvel'd much that at so ripe an age  
 As twice sev'n years, his beauties had then first  
 Engaged my wonder, and admiring still  
 And still admiring, with regret supposed  
 The joy half lost because not sooner found.

Thee too enamour'd of the life I loved,  
 Pathetic in its praise, in its pursuit  
 Determined, and possessing it at last  
 With transports such as favor'd lovers feel,  
 I studied, prized, and wished that I had known  
 Ingenious Cowley ! and though now, reclaimed,  
 By modern lights from an erroneous taste,  
 I cannot but lament thy splendid wit  
 Entangled in the cobwebs of the schools,  
 I still revere thee, courtly though retired,  
 Though stretch'd at ease in Chertsey's silent bow'rs  
 Not unemploy'd, and finding rich amends  
 For a lost world in solitude and verse.  
 'Tis born with all. The love of Nature's works  
 Is an ingredient in the compound, man,  
 Infused at the creation of the kind.  
 And though th' Almighty Maker, has throughout  
 Discriminated each from each, by strokes  
 And touches of his hand with so much art  
 Diversified, that two were never found

Twins at all points—yet this obtains in all,  
 That all discern a beauty in his works  
 And all can taste them. Minds that have been form'd  
 And tutor'd, with a relish more exact,  
 But none without some relish, none unmoved.  
 It is a flame that dies not even there  
 Where nothing feeds it. Neither business, crowds,  
 Nor habits of luxurious city-life,  
 Whatever else they smother of true worth  
 In human bosoms, quench it or abate.  
 The villas with which London stands begirt  
 Like a swarth Indian with his belt of beads,  
 Prove it. A breath of unadult'rate air,  
 The glimpse of a green pasture, how they cheer  
 The citizen, and brace his languid frame!  
 Ev'n in the stifling bosom of the town,  
 A garden in which nothing thrives, has charms  
 That sooth the rich possessor; much consoled  
 That here and there some sprigs of mournful mint,  
 Of nightshade or valerian grace the well



He cultivates. These serve him with a hint  
 That Nature lives, that sight-refreshing green  
 Is still the liv'ry she delights to wear,  
 Though sickly samples of th' exub'rant whole.  
 What are the casements lined with creeping herbs,  
 The prouder fashies fronted with a range  
 Of orange, myrtle, or the fragrant weed  
 The Frenchman's \* darling? are they not all proofs  
 That man immured in cities, still retains  
 His inborn inextinguishable thirst  
 Of rural scenes, compensating his loss  
 By supplemental shifts, the best he may?  
 The most unfurnished with the means of life,  
 And they that never pass their brick-wall bounds  
 To range the fields and treat their lungs with air,  
 Yet feel the burning instinct: over-head  
 Suspend their crazy boxes planted thick  
 And water'd duely. There the pitcher stands

A fragment,

\* Mignonette.

A fragment, and the spoutless tea-pot there ;  
 Sad witness how close-pent man regrets  
 The country, with what ardour he contrives  
 A peep at nature, when he can no more.

Hail therefore patroness of health and ease  
 And contemplation, heart-consoling joys  
 And harmless pleasures in the throng'd abode  
 Of multitudes unknown, hail rural life !  
 Address himself who will to the pursuit  
 Of honors or emolument or fame,  
 I shall not add myself to such a chace,  
 Thwart his attempts, or envy his success.  
 Some must be great. Great offices will have  
 Great talents. And God gives to ev'ry man  
 The virtue, temper, understanding, taste,  
 That lifts him into life, and lets him fall  
 Just in the niche he was ordain'd to fill.  
 To the deliv'rer of an injured land  
 He gives a tongue t' enlarge upon, an heart

To feel, and courage to redress her wrongs ;  
To monarchs dignity, to judges sense,  
To artists ingenuity and skill ;  
To me an unambitious mind, content  
In the low vale of life, that early felt  
A wish for ease and leisure, and 'ere long  
Found here that leisure and that ease I wish'd.

## ARGUMENT of the FIFTH BOOK.

*A frosty morning.—The foddering of cattle.—the woodman and his dog.—The poultry.—Whimsical effects of frost at a waterfall.—The Empress of Russia's palace of ice.—Amusements of monarchs.—War one of them. Wars, whence.—And whence monarchy.—The evils of it.—English and French loyalty contrasted.—The Bastile and a prisoner there.—Liberty the chief recommendation of this country.—Modern patriotism questionable, and why.—The perishable nature of the best human institutions.—Spiritual liberty not perishable.—The slavish state of man by nature.—Deliver him Deist if you can.—Grace must do it.—The respective merits of patriots and martyrs stated.—Their different treatment.—Happy freedom of the man whom grace makes free.—His relish of the works of God.—Address to the Creator.*

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B O O K V.

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THE WINTER MORNING WALK.

**T** H I S morning ; and the sun with ruddy orb  
Ascending fires the horizon. While the clouds  
That crowd away before the driving wind,  
More ardent as the disk emerges more,  
Resemble most some city in a blaze,  
Seen through the leafless wood. His slanting ray  
Slides ineffectual down the snowy vale,  
And tinging all with his own rosy hue,  
From ev'ry herb and ev'ry spiry blade  
Stretches a length of shadow o'er the field,  
Mine, spindling into longitude immense,

In spite of gravity and sage remark—  
 That I myself am but a fleeting shade,  
 Provokes me to a smile. With eye askance  
 I view the muscular proportioned limb  
 Transformed to a lean shank. The shapeless pair  
 As they designed to mock me, at my side  
 Take step for step, and as I near approach  
 The cottage, walk along the plaister'd wall  
 Prepost'rous sight ! the legs without the man.  
 The verdure of the plain lies buried deep  
 Beneath the dazzling deluge, and the bents  
 And coarser grass upspearing o'er the rest,  
 Of late unsightly and unseen, now shine  
 Conspicuous, and in bright apparel clad  
 And fledged with icy feathers, nod superb.  
 The cattle mourn in corners where the fence  
 Screens them, and seem half petrified to sleep  
 In unrecumbent sadness. There they wait  
 Their wonted fodder, not like hungr'ing man  
 Fretfull if unsupplied, but silent, meek,

And

And patient of the slow-paced swain's delay:  
 He from the stack carves out th' accustomed load,  
 Deep-plunging and again deep plunging oft  
 His broad keen knife into the solid mass,  
 Smooth as a wall the upright remnant stands,  
 With such undeviating and even force  
 He severs it away. No needless care,  
 Lest storms should overset the leaning pile  
 Deciduous, or its own unbalanced weight.  
 Forth goes the woodman leaving unconcerned  
 The cheerfull haunts of man, to wield the axe  
 And drive the wedge in yonder forest drear,  
 From morn to eve his solitary task.  
 Shaggy and lean and shrew'd, with pointed ears  
 And tail cropp'd short, half lurcher and half cur  
 His dog attends him. Close behind his heel  
 Now creeps he slow, and now with many a frisk  
 Wide-scampering snatches up the drifted snow  
 With iv'ry teeth, or ploughs it with his snout;  
 Then shakes his powder'd coat and barks for joy.

Heedless of all his pranks the sturdy churl  
 Moves' right toward the mark. Nor stops for aught,  
 But now and then with pressure of his thumb  
 T' adjust the fragrant charge of a short tube  
 That fumes beneath his nose. The trailing cloud  
 Streams far behind him, scenting all the air.  
 Now from the roost or from the neighb'ring pale,  
 Where diligent to catch the first faint gleam  
 Of smiling day, they gossipp'd side by side,  
 Come trooping at the housewife's well-known call  
 The feather'd tribes domestic. Half on wing  
 And half on foot, they brush the fleecy flood  
 Conscious, and fearful of too deep a plunge.  
 The sparrows peep, and quit the shelt'ring eaves  
 To seize the fair occasion. Well they eye  
 The scatter'd grain, and thievishly resolved  
 T' escape th' impending famine, often scared  
 As oft return, a pert voracious kind.  
 Clean riddance quickly made, one only care  
 Remains to each, the search of funny nook,



Or shed impervious to the blast. Resign'd  
 To sad necessity the cock foregoes  
 His wonted strut, and wading at their head  
 With well-considered steps, seems to resent  
 His alter'd gait and stareliness retrenched.  
 How find the myriads that in summer cheer  
 The hills and vallies with their ceaseless songs  
 Due sustenance, or where subsist they now ?  
 Earth yields them nought : the imprison'd worm is safe  
 Beneath the frozen clod ; all seeds of herbs  
 Lie covered close, and berry-bearing thorns  
 That feed the thrush (whatever some suppose)  
 Afford the smaller minstrels no supply.  
 The long protracted rigor of the year  
 Thins all their num'rous flocks. In chinks and holes  
 Ten thousand seek an unmolested end  
 As instinct prompts, self buried 'ere they die.  
 The very rooks and daws forsake the fields,  
 Where neither grub nor root nor earth-nut now  
 Repays their labor more ; and perch'd aloft

By the way-side, or stalking in the path,  
 Lean pensioners upon the trav'lers track,  
 Pick up their nauseous dole, though sweet to them,  
 Of voided pulse or half digested grain.  
 The streams are lost amid the splendid blank  
 O'erwhelming all distinction. On the flood  
 Indurated and fixt the snowy weight  
 Lies undissolved, while silently beneath  
 And unperceived the current steals away.  
 Not so, where scornful of a check it leaps  
 The mill-dam, dashes on the wrestless wheel,  
 And wantons in the pebbly gulph below.  
 No frost can bind it there. Its utmost force  
 Can but arrest the light and smokey mist  
 That in its fall the liquid sheet throws wide.  
 And see where it has hung th' embroidered banks  
 With forms so various, that no pow'rs of art,  
 The pencil or the pen, may trace the scene !  
 Here glitt'ring turrets rise, upbearing high  
 (Fantastic misarrangement) on the roof

Large growth of what may seem the sparkling trees  
 And shrubs of fairy land. The chrystal drops  
 That trickle down the branches, fast congeal'd  
 Shoot into pillars of pellucid length,  
 And prop the pile they but adorned before.  
 Here grotto within grotto safe defies  
 The sun-beam. There imbos'd and fretted wild  
 The growing wonder takes a thousand shapes  
 Capricious, in which fancy seeks in vain  
 The likenefs of some object seen before.  
 Thus nature works as if to mock at art,  
 And in defiance of her rival pow'rs ;  
 By these fortuitous and random strokes  
 Performing such inimitable feats  
 As she with all her rules can never reach.  
 Less worthy of applause though more admired,  
 Because a novelty, the work of man,  
 Imperial mistress of the fur-clad Rufs !  
 Thy most magnificent and mighty freak,  
 The wonder of the North. No forest fell

When

When thou would'st build : no quarry sent its stores  
 T' enrich thy walls. . . But thou didst hew the floods,  
 And make thy marble of the glassy wave.

In such a palace Aristæus found

Cyrene, when he bore the plaintive tale

Of his lost bees to her maternal ear.

In such a palace poetry might place

The armoury of winter, where his troops

The gloomy clouds find weapons, arro'wy fleet

Skin-piercing volley, blossom-bruising hail,

And snow that often blinds the trav'ler's course,

And wraps him in an unexpected tomb.

Silently as a dream the fabric rose.

No sound of hammer or of saw was there.

Ice upon ice, the well-adjusted parts

Were soon conjoined, nor other cement ask'd

Than water interfused to make them one.

Lamps gracefully disposed and of all hues

Illumined ev'ry side. A wat'ry light

Gleamed through the clear transparency, that seemed

Another

Another moon new-risen, or meteor fall'n  
 From heav'n to earth, of lambent flame serene.  
 So stood the brittle prodigy, though smooth  
 And slipp'ry the materials, yet frost-bound  
 Firm as a rock. Nor wanted aught within  
 That royal residence might well besit,  
 For grandeur or for use. Long wavy wreaths  
 Of flow'rs that feared no enemy but warmth,  
 Blushed on the pannels. Mirrour needed none  
 Where all was vitreous, but in order due  
 Convivial table and commodious seat  
 (What seemed at least commodious seat) were there,  
 Sofa and couch and high-built throne august.  
 The same lubricity was found in all,  
 And all was moist to the warm touch, a scene  
 Of evanescent glory, once a stream,  
 And soon to slide into a stream again.  
 Alas! twas but a mortifying stroke  
 Of undesigned severity; that glanced,  
 (Made by a monarch) on her own estate,

On human grandeur and the courts of kings.  
 'Twas transient in its nature, as in show  
 'Twas durable. As worthless as it seemed  
 Intrinsically precious. To the foot  
 Treach'rous and false, it smiled and it was cold.

Great princes have great play-things, Some have played  
 At hewing mountains into men, and some  
 At building human wonders mountain-high,  
 Some have amused the dull sad years of life,  
 Life spent in indolence, and therefore sad,  
 With schemes of monumental fame, and fought  
 By pyramids and mausolean pomp,  
 Short-lived themselves, t' immortalize their bones.  
 Some seek diversion in the tented field,  
 And make the forrows of mankind their sport.  
 But war's a game, which were their subjects wise,  
 King's should not play at. Nations would do well  
 T' extort their truncheons from the puny hands  
 Of heroes, whose infirm and baby minds

Are gratified with mischief, and who spoil  
Because men suffer it, their toy the world.

When Babel was confounded, and the great  
Confed'racy of projectors wild and vain  
Was split into diversity of tongues,  
Then, as a shepherd separates his flock,  
These to the upland, to the valley those,  
God drave afunder and assigned their lot  
To all the nations. Ample was the boon  
He gave them, in its distribution fair  
And equal, and he bade them dwell in peace.  
Peace was awhile their care. They plough'd and sow'd  
And reap'd their plenty without grudge or strife.  
But violence can never longer sleep  
Than human passions please. In ev'ry heart  
Are sown the sparks that kindle fiery war,  
Occasion needs but fan them, and they blaze.  
Cain had already shed a brother's blood;  
The deluge wash'd it out; but left unquenched

The

The seeds of murder in the breast of man.  
 Soon, by a righteous judgment, in the line  
 Of his descending progeny was found  
 The first artificer of death; the shrew'd  
 Contriver who first sweated at the forge,  
 And forced the blunt and yet unblooded steel  
 To a keen edge, and made it bright for war.  
 Him Tubal named, the Vulcan of old times,  
 The sword and faulchion their inventor claim,  
 And the first smith was the first murd'rer's son.  
 His art survived the waters; and 'ere long  
 When man was multiplied and spread abroad  
 In tribes and clans, and had begun to call  
 These meadows and that range of hills his own,  
 The tasted sweets of property beget  
 Desire of more; and industry in some  
 To improve and cultivate their just demesne,  
 Made others covet what they saw so fair.  
 Thus wars began on earth. These fought for spoil,  
 And those in self-defence. Savage at first



The onset, and irregular. At length  
 One eminent above the rest, for strength,  
 For stratagem or courage, or for all,  
 Was chosen leader. Him they served in war,  
 And him in peace for sake of warlike deeds  
 Rev'renced no less. Who could with him compare ?  
 Or who so worthy to controul themselves  
 As he whose prowess had subdued their foes ?  
 Thus war affording field for the display  
 Of virtue, made one chief, whom times of peace,  
 Which have their exigencies too, and call  
 For skill in government, at length made king.  
 King was a name too proud for man to wear  
 With modesty and meekness, and the crown,  
 So dazzling in their eyes who set it on,  
 Was sure t' intoxicate the brows it bound.  
 It is the abject property of most,  
 That being parcel of the common mass,  
 And destitute of means to raise themselves,  
 They sink and settle lower than they need.

They know not what it is to feel within  
 A comprehensive faculty that grasps  
 Great purposes with ease, that turns and wields  
 Almost without an effort, plans too vast  
 For their conception, which they cannot move.  
 Conscious of impotence they soon grow drunk  
 With gazing, when they see an able man  
 Step forth to notice; and besotted thus  
 Build him a pedestal and say, stand there,  
 And be our admiration and our praise.  
 They roll themselves before him in the dust,  
 Then most deserving in their own account  
 When most extravagant in his applause,  
 As if exalting him they raised themselves.  
 Thus by degrees self-cheated of their sound  
 And sober judgment that he is but man,  
 They demi-deify and fume him so  
 That in due season he forgets it too.  
 Inflated and astrut with self-conceit  
 He gulps the windy diet, and 'ere long

Adopting

Adopting their mistake, profoundly thinks  
 The world was made in vain if not for him.  
 Thenceforth they are his cattle. Drudges born  
 To bear his burthens, drawing in his gears  
 And sweating in his service. His caprice  
 Becomes the soul that animates them all.  
 He deems a thousand or ten thousand lives  
 Spent in the purchase of renown for him  
 An easy reck'ning, and they think the same.  
 Thus kings were first invented, and thus kings  
 Were burnished into heroes, and became  
 The arbiters of this terraqueous swamp,  
 Storks among frogs, that have but croak'd and died.  
 Strange that such folly as lifts bloated man  
 To eminence fit only for a God,  
 Should ever drivell out of human lips  
 Ev'n in the cradled weakness of the world !  
 Still stranger much, that when at length mankind  
 Had reached the finewy firmness of their youth,  
 And could discriminate and argue well

On subjects more mysterious, they were yet  
 Babes in the cause of freedom, and should fear  
 And quake before the Gods themselves had made.  
 But above measure strange, that neither proof  
 Of sad experience, nor examples set  
 By some whose patriot virtue has prevailed,  
 Can even now, when they are grown matute  
 In wisdom, and with philosophic deeps  
 Familiar, serve t' emancipate the rest !  
 Such dupes are men to custom, and so prone  
 To rev'rence what is ancient and can plead  
 A course of long observance for its use,  
 That even servitude the worst of ills,  
 Because deliver'd down from sire to son,  
 Is kept and guarded as a sacred thing.  
 But is it fit, or can it bear the shock  
 Of rational discussion, that a man  
 Compounded and made up like other men  
 Of elements tumultuous, in whom lust  
 And folly in as ample measure meet

As in the bosoms of the slaves he rules,  
 Should be a despot absolute, and boast  
 Himself the only freeman of his land ?  
 Should when he pleases, and on whom he will  
 Wage war, with any or with no pretence  
 Of provocation giv'n or wrong sustained,  
 And force the beggarly last doit, by means  
 That his own humour dictates, from the clutch  
 Of poverty, that thus he may procure  
 His thousands weary of penurious life  
 A splendid opportunity to die ?  
 Say ye, who (with less prudence than of old  
 Jotham ascribed to his assembled trees  
 In politic convention) put your trust  
 I' th' shadow of a bramble, and reclined  
 In fancied peace beneath his dang'rous branch,  
 Rejoice in him and celebrate his sway,  
 Where find ye passive fortitude ? Whence springs  
 Your self-denying zeal that holds it good  
 To stroke the prickly grievance, and to hang

His thorns with streamers of continual praise ?  
 We too are friends to loyalty. We love  
 The king who loves the law ; respects his bounds  
 And reigns content within them. Him we serve  
 Freely and with delight, who leaves us free.  
 But recollecting still that he is man,  
 We trust him not too far. King, though he be,  
 And king in England too, he may be weak  
 And vain enough to be ambitious still,  
 May exercise amiss his proper pow'rs,  
 Or covet more than freemen chuse to grant ;  
 Beyond that mark is treason. He is ours,  
 T' administer, to guard, t' adorn the state,  
 But not to warp or change it. We are his,  
 To serve him nobly in the common cause  
 True to the death, but not to be his slaves.  
 Mark now the diff'rence, ye that boast your love  
 Of kings, between your loyalty and ours.  
 We love the man. The paultry pageant you.  
 We the chief patron of the Commonwealth ;

You the regardless author of its woes.  
 We for the sake of liberty, a king ;  
 You chains and bondage for a tyrant's sake.  
 Our love is principle, and has its root  
 In reason, is judicious, manly, free.  
 Yours, a blind instinct, crouches to the rod,  
 And licks the foot that treads it in the dust.  
 Were king-ship as true treasure as it seems,  
 Sterling, and worthy of a wise man's wish,  
 I would not be a king to be beloved  
 Causeless, and daubed with undiscerning praise,  
 Where love is mere attachment to the throne,  
 Not to the man who fills it as he ought.

Whose freedom is by suff'rance, and at will  
 Of a superior, he is never free.  
 Who lives and is not weary of a life.  
 Exposed to manacles, deserves them well.  
 The state that strives for liberty, though foiled  
 And forced t' abandon what she bravely fought,

Deserves at least applause for her attempt,  
 And pity for her loss. But that's a cause  
 Not often unsuccessful; pow'r usurp'd  
 Is weakness when oppos'd; conscious of wrong  
 'Tis pusillanimous and prone to flight.  
 But slaves that once conceive the glowing thought  
 Of freedom, in that hope itself possess  
 All that the contest calls for; spirit, strength,  
 The scorn of danger, and united hearts  
 The surest presage of the good they seek.\*

Then shame to manhood, and opprobrious more  
 To France, than all her losses and defeats  
 Old or of later date, by sea or land,

\* The author hopes that he shall not be censured for unnecessary warmth upon so interesting a subject. He is aware that it is become almost fashionable to stigmatize such sentiments as no better than empty declamation. But it is an ill symptom, and peculiar to modern times.



Her house of bondage worse than that of old  
 Which God avenged on Pharaoh—the Bastile.  
 Ye horrid tow'rs, th' abode of broken hearts,  
 Ye dungeons and ye cages of despair,  
 That monarchs have supplied from age to age  
 With music such as suits their sov'reign ears,  
 The sighs and groans of miserable men!  
 There's not an English heart that would not leap  
 To hear that ye were fall'n at last, to know  
 That ev'n our enemies, so oft employed  
 In forging chains for us, themselves were free.  
 For he that values liberty, confines  
 His zeal for her predominance within  
 No narrow bounds; her cause engages him  
 Wherever pleaded. 'Tis the cause of man.  
 There dwell the most forlorn of human kind  
 Immured though unaccused, condemn'd untried,  
 Cruelly spared, and hopeless of escape.  
 There like the visionary emblem seen  
 By him of Babylon, life stands a stump,

And

And filleted about with hoops of brass,  
 Still lives, though all its pleasant boughs are gone,  
 To count the hour-bell and expect no change ;  
 And ever as the fullen sound is heard,  
 Still to reflect that though a joyless note  
 To him whose moments all have one dull pace,  
 Ten thousand rovers in the world at large  
 Account it music; that it summons some  
 To theatre or jocund feast or ball ;  
 The wearied hireling finds it a release  
 From labor, and the lover that has chid  
 Its long delay, feels ev'ry welcome stroke  
 Upon his heart-strings trembling with delight—  
 To fly for refuge from distracting thought  
 To such amusements as ingenious woe  
 Contrives, hard-shifting and without her tools—  
 To read engraven on the mouldy walls  
 In stagg'ring types, his predecessors tale,  
 A sad memorial, and subjoin his own—  
 To turn purveyor to an overgorged

And

And bloated spider, till the pamper'd pest  
 Is made familiar, watches his approach,  
 Comes at his call and serves him for a friend—  
 To wear out time in numb'ring to and fro  
 The studs that thick emboss his iron door,  
 Then downward and then upward, then afloat  
 And then alternate, with a sickly hope  
 By dint of change to give his tasteless task  
 Some relish, till the sum exactly found  
 In all directions, he begins again—  
 Oh comfortless existence! hemm'd around  
 With woes, which who that suffers, would not kneel  
 And beg for exile, or the pangs of death?  
 That man should thus encroach on fellow man,  
 Abridge him of his just and native rights,  
 Eradicate him, tear him from his hold  
 Upon th' endearments of domestic life  
 And social, nip his fruitfulness and use,  
 And doom him for perhaps an heedless word  
 To barrenness and solitude and tears,

Moves indignation. Makes the name of king,  
 (Of king whom such prerogative can please)  
 As dreadful as the Manichean God,  
 Adored through fear, strong only to destroy.

'Tis liberty alone that gives the flow'r  
 Of fleeting life its lustre and perfume,  
 And we are weeds without it. All constraint,  
 Except what wisdom lays on evil men,  
 Is evil; hurts the faculties, impedes  
 Their progress in the road of science; blinds  
 The eye sight of discov'ry, and begets  
 In those that suffer it, a sordid mind  
 Bestial, a meagre intellect, unfit  
 To to be the tenant of man's noble form.  
 Thee therefore still, blame-worthy as thou art,  
 With all thy loss of empire, and though squeezed  
 By public exigence 'till annual food  
 Fails for the craving hunger of the state,  
 Thee I account still happy, and the chief

Among

Among the nations, seeing thou art free !  
 My native nook of earth ! thy clime is rude,  
 Replete with vapours, and disposes much  
 All hearts to sadness, and none more than mine ;  
 Thine unadult'rate manners are less soft  
 And plausible than social life requires,  
 And thou hast need of discipline and art  
 To give thee what politer France receives  
 From Nature's bounty—that humane address  
 And sweetness, without which no pleasure is  
 In converse, either starved by cold reserve,  
 Or flush'd with fierce dispute, a senseless brawl ;  
 Yet being free, I love thee. For the sake  
 Of that one feature, can be well content,  
 Disgraced as thou hast been, poor as thou art,  
 To seek no sublunary rest beside.  
 But once enslaved, farewell ! I could endure  
 Chains no where patiently, and chains at home  
 Where I am free by birthright, not at all.  
 Then what were left of roughness in the grain

Of British natures, wanting its excuse  
 That it belongs to freemen, would disgust  
 And shock me. I should then with double pain  
 Feel all the rigor of thy fickle clime,  
 And if I must bewail the blessing lost  
 For which our Hampdens and our Sidney's bled,  
 I would at least bewail it under skies  
 Milder, among a people less austere,  
 In scenes which having never known me free  
 Would not reproach me with the loss I felt.  
 Do I forebode impossible events,  
 And tremble at vain dreams ? Heav'n grant I may !  
 But th' age of virtuous politics is past,  
 And we are deep in that of cold pretence.  
 Patriots are grown too shrewd to be sincere,  
 And we too wise to trust them. He that takes  
 Deep in his soft credulity the stamp  
 Designed by loud declaimers on the part  
 Of liberty, themselves the slaves of lust,  
 Incurs derision for his easy faith

And

And lack of knowledge, and with cause enough.

For when was public virtue to be found

Where private was not? can he love the whole

Who loves no part? He be a nation's friend

Who is, in truth, the friend of no man there?

Can he be strenuous in his country's cause,

Who flights the charities for whose dear sake

That country, if at all, must be beloved?

'Tis therefore, sober and good men are sad

For England's glory, seeing it wax pale

And sickly, while her champions wear their hearts

So loose to private duty, that no brain

Healthful and undisturbed by factious fumes,

Can dream them trusty to the gen'ral weal.

Such were not they of old, whose temper'd blades

Dispersed the shackles of usurp'd controul,

And hew'd them link from link. Then Albion's sons

Were sons indeed. They felt a filial heart

Beat high within them at a mother's wrongs,

And shining each in his domestic sphere,

Shone

Shone brighter still once call'd to public view.  
 'Tis therefore, many whose sequester'd lot  
 Forbids their interference, looking on  
 Anticipate perforce some dire event ;  
 And seeing the old castle of the state  
 That promised once more firmness, so assail'd  
 That all its tempest-beaten turrets shake,  
 Stand motionless expectants of its fall.  
 All has its date below. The fatal hour  
 Was register'd in heaven 'ere time began.  
 We turn to dust, and all our mightiest works  
 Die too. The deep foundations that we lay,  
 Time ploughs them up, and not a trace remains.  
 We build with what we deem eternal rock,  
 A distant age asks where the fabric stood,  
 And in the dust sifted and search'd in vain,  
 The undiscoverable secret sleeps.

But there is yet a liberty un Sung  
 By poets, and by senators unpraised,

Which



Which monarchs cannot grant, nor all the powers  
Of earth and hell confed'rate take away.

A liberty, which persecution, fraud,  
Oppression, prisons, have no power to bind,  
Which who so tastes can be enslaved no more.  
'Tis liberty of heart, derived from heav'n,  
Bought with HIS blood who gave it to mankind,  
And seal'd with the same token. It is held  
By charter, and that charter sanction'd sure  
By th' unimpeachable and awful oath  
And promise of a God. His other gifts  
All bear the royal stamp that speaks them his,  
And are august, but this transcends them all;  
His other works, this visible display  
Of all-creating energy and might,  
Are grand no doubt, and worthy of the word  
That finding an interminable space  
Unoccupied, has filled the void so well,  
And made so sparkling what was dark before:  
But these are not his glory. Man, 'tis true,

Smit with the beauty of so fair a scene,  
 Might well suppose th' artificer divine  
 Meant it eternal, had he not himself  
 Pronounced it transient glorious as it is,  
 And still designing a more glorious far,  
 Doom'd it, as insufficient for his praise.  
 These therefore are occasional and pass.  
 Form'd for the confutation of the fool  
 Whose lying heart disputes against a God,  
 That office served, they must be swept away.  
 Not so the labours of his love. They shine  
 In other heav'ns than these that we behold,  
 And fade not. There is paradise that fears  
 No forfeiture, and of its fruits he sends  
 Large prelibation oft to saints below.  
 Of these the first in order, and the pledge  
 And confident assurance of the rest  
 Is liberty. A flight into his arms  
 'Ere yet mortality's fine threads give way,

A clear

A clear escape from tyrannizing lust,  
 And full immunity from penal woe.

Chains are the portion of revolted man,  
 Stripes and a dungeon; and his body serves  
 The triple purpose. In that sickly, foul,  
 Opprobrious residence, he finds them all.  
 Propense his heart to idols, he is held  
 In silly dotage on created things  
 Careless of their Creator. And that low  
 And sordid gravitation of his pow'rs  
 To a vile clod, so draws him, with such force  
 Resistless from the center he should seek,  
 That he at last forgets it. All his hopes  
 Tend downward, his ambition is to sink,  
 To reach a depth profounder still, and still  
 Profounder, in the fathomless abyss  
 Of folly, plunging in pursuit of death.  
 But 'ere he gain the comfortless repose  
 He seeks, an acquiescence of his soul

In heav'n-renouncing exile, he endures—  
 What does he not ? from lusts oppos'd in vain,  
 And self-reproaching conscience. He foresees  
 The fatal issue to his health, fame, peace,  
 Fortune and dignity; the loss of all  
 That can enoble man, and make frail life  
 Short as it is, supportable. Still worse,  
 Far worse than all the plagues with which his sins  
 Infect his happiest moments, he forebodes  
 Ages of hopeless misery. Future death,  
 And death still future. Not an hasty stroke  
 Like that which sends him to the dusty grave,  
 But unrepealable enduring death.  
 Scripture is still a trumpet to his fears ;  
 What none can prove a forg'ry, may be true,  
 What none but bad men wish exploded, must.  
 That scruple checks him. Riot is not loud  
 Nor drunk enough to drown it. In the midst  
 Of laughter his compunctions are sincere,  
 And he abhors the jest by which he shines,

Remorse begets reform. His master-lust  
 Falls first before his resolute rebuke,  
 And seems dethroned and vanquish'd. Peace ensues,  
 But spurious and short-liv'd, the puny child  
 Of self-congratulating pride, begot  
 On fancied Innocence. Again he falls,  
 And fights again ; but finds his best essay  
 A presage ominous, portending still  
 Its own dishonor by a worse relapse.  
 Till Nature, unavailing Nature foiled  
 So oft, and wearied in the vain attempt,  
 Scoffs at her own performance. Reason now  
 Takes part with appetite, and pleads the cause,  
 Perversely, which of late she so condemn'd ;  
 With shallow shifts and old devices, worn  
 And tatter'd in the service of debauch,  
 Cov'ring his shame from his offended sight.

“ Hath God indeed giv'n appetites to man,

“ And stored the earth so plenteously with means

- “ To gratify the hunger of his wish,  
 “ And doth he reprobate and will he damn  
 “ The use of his own bounty? making first  
 “ So frail a kind, and then enacting laws  
 “ So strict, that less than perfect must despair?  
 “ Falsehood! which who so but suspects of truth,  
 “ Dishonors God, and makes a slave of man,  
 “ Do they themselves, who undertake for hire  
 “ The teacher’s office, and dispense at large  
 “ Their weekly dole of edifying strains,  
 “ Attend to their own music? have they faith  
 “ In what with such solemnity of tone  
 “ And gesture they propound to our belief?  
 “ Nay—conduct hath the loudest tongue, The voice  
 “ Is but an instrument on which the priest  
 “ May play what tune he pleases, In the deed,  
 “ The unequivocal authentic deed  
 “ We find sound argument, we read the heart,

Such reas’nings (if that name must needs belong  
 T’ excuses in which reason has no part)

Serve to compose a spirit well inclined  
 To live on terms of amity with vice,  
 And sin without disturbance. Often urged  
 (As often as libidinous discourse  
 Exhausted, he resorts to solemn themes  
 Of theological and grave import)  
 They gain at last his unreserved assent.  
 Till harden'd his heart's temper in the forge  
 Of lust, and on the anvil of despair,  
 He slights the strokes of conscience. Nothing moves,  
 Or nothing much, his constancy in ill,  
 Vain tamp'ring has but foster'd his disease,  
 'Tis desp'rate, and he sleeps the sleep of death.  
 Hasten now, philosopher, and set him free.  
 Charm the deaf serpent wisely. Make him hear  
 Of rectitude and fitness; moral truth  
 How lovely, and the moral-sense how sure  
 Consulted and obey'd, to guide his steps  
 Directly to the FIRST AND ONLY FAIR.  
 Spare not in such a cause. Spend all the pow'rs

Of rant and rhapsody in virtue's praise,  
 Be most sublimely good, verbosely grand,  
 And with poetic trappings grace thy prose  
 Till it out-mantle all the pride of verse.—  
 Ah, tinkling cymbal and high-sounding brass  
 Smitten in vain ! such music cannot charm  
 Th' eclipse that intercepts truth's heav'nly beam,  
 And chills and darkens a wide-wand'ring soul.  
 The still small voice is wanted. He must speak  
 Whose word leaps forth at once to its effect,  
 Who calls for things that are not, and they come,

Grace makes the slave a freeman. 'Tis a change  
 That turns to ridicule the turgid speech  
 And stately tone of moralists, who boast,  
 As if like him of fabulous renown  
 They had indeed ability to smoothe  
 The shag of savage nature, and were each  
 An Orpheus and omnipotent in song.  
 But transformation of apostate man

From



From fool to wise, from earthly to divine,  
 Is work for Him that made him. He alone,  
 And he by means in philosophic eyes  
 Trivial and worthy of disdain, achieves  
 The wonder; humanizing what is brute  
 In the lost kind, extracting from the lips  
 Of asps their venom, overpowering strength  
 By weakness, and hostility by love.

Patriots have toiled, and in their country's cause  
 Bled nobly, and their deeds, as they deserve,  
 Receive proud recompense. We give in charge  
 Their names to the sweet lyre. Th' historic muse,  
 Proud of the treasure, marches with it down  
 To latest times; and sculpture in her turn,  
 Gives bond in stone and ever-during brass,  
 To guard them, and t' immortalize her trust.  
 But fairer wreaths are due, though never paid,  
 To those who posted at the shrine of truth,  
 Have fall'n in her defence. A patriot's blood  
 Well spent in such a strife may earn indeed

And

And for a time infure to his loved land  
 The sweets of liberty and equal laws ;  
 But martyrs struggle for a brighter prize,  
 And win it with more pain. Their blood is shed  
 In confirmation of the noblest claim,  
 Our claim to feed upon immortal truth,  
 To walk with God, to be divinely free,  
 To soar, and to anticipate the skies.  
 Yet few remember them. They lived unknown  
 Till perfecution dragg'd them into fame  
 And chased them up to heaven. Their ashes flew  
 —No marble tells us whither. With their names  
 No bard embalms and sanctifies his song,  
 And History, so warm on meaner themes,  
 Is cold on this. She execrates indeed  
 The tyranny that doom'd them to the fire,  
 But gives the glorious suff'ers little praise.\*

\* See Hume,

He is the freeman whom the truth makes free,  
 And all are slaves beside. There's not a chain  
 That hellish foes confed'rate for his harm  
 Can wind around him, but he casts it off  
 With as much ease as Samson his green wyths.  
 He looks abroad into the varied field  
 Of Nature, and though poor perhaps, compared  
 With those whose mansions glitter in his sight,  
 Calls the delightful scen'ry all his own.  
 His are the mountains, and the vallies his,  
 And the resplendent rivers. His t' enjoy  
 With a propriety that none can feel,  
 But who with filial confidence inspired  
 Can lift to heav'n an unpretentious eye,  
 And smiling say—my father made them all.  
 Are they not his by a peculiar right,  
 And by an emphasis of int'rest his,  
 Whose eye they fill with tears of holy joy,  
 Whose heart with praise, and whose exalted mind  
 With worthy thoughts of that unwearied love

That

That plann'd, and built, and still upholds a world  
So cloathed with beauty, for rebellious man?

Yes—ye may fill your garner, ye that reap  
The loaded soil, and ye may waste much good  
In senseless riot; but ye will not find

In feast or in the chace, in song or dance

A liberty like his, who unimpeach'd

Of usurpation and to no man's wrong,

Appropriates nature as his father's work,

And has a richer use of yours, than you,

He is indeed a freeman. Free by birth

Of no mean city, plann'd or 'ere the hills

Were built, the fountains open'd, or the sea

With all his roaring multitude of waves,

His freedom is the same in ev'ry state,

And no condition of this changeful life

So manifold in cares, whose ev'ry day

Brings its own evil with it, makes it less.

For he has wings that neither sickness, pain,

Nor penury, can cripple or confine,

No nook so narrow but he spreads them there  
 With ease, and is at large. Th' oppressor holds  
 His body bound, but knows not what a range  
 His spirit takes unconscious of a chain,  
 And that to bind him is a vain attempt  
 Whom God delights in, and in whom he dwells.

Acquaint thyself with God if thou would'st taste  
 His works. Admitted once to his embrace,  
 Thou shalt perceive that thou wast blind before ;  
 Thine eye shall be instructed, and thine heart  
 Made pure, shall relish with divine delight  
 'Till then unfelt, what hands divine have wrought,  
 Brutes graze the mountain-top with faces prone  
 And eyes intent upon the scanty herb  
 It yields them, or recumbent on its brow,  
 Ruminates heedless of the scene outspread  
 Beneath, beyond, and stretching far away  
 From inland regions to the distant main.  
 Man views it and admires, but rests content

With

With what he views. The landscape has his praise,  
 But not its author. Unconcern'd who form'd  
 The paradise he sees, he finds it such,  
 And such well-pleas'd to find it, asks no more.  
 Not so the mind that has been touch'd from heav'n,  
 And in the school of sacred wisdom taught  
 To read his wonders, in whose thought the world,  
 Fair as it is, exist'd 'ere it was.  
 Not for its own sake merely, but for his  
 Much more who fashioned it, he gives it praise ;  
 Praise that from earth resulting as it ought  
 To earth's acknowledg'd sov'reign, finds at once  
 Its only just proprietor in Him.  
 The soul that sees him, or receives sublimed  
 New faculties, or learns at least t' employ  
 More worthily the pow'rs she own'd before ;  
 Discerns in all things, what with stupid gaze  
 Of ignorance till then she overlook'd,  
 A ray of heav'nly light gilding all forms  
 Terrestrial, in the vast and the minute

The unambiguous footsteps of the God  
 Who gives its lustre to an insect's wing,  
 And wheels his throne upon the rolling worlds.  
 Much conversant with heav'n, she often holds  
 With those fair ministers of light to man  
 That fill the skies nightly with silent pomp,  
 Sweet conference. Enquires what strains were they  
 With which heav'n rang, when ev'ry star, in haste  
 To gratulate the new-created earth,  
 Sent forth a voice, and all the sons of God  
 Shouted for joy.—“ Tell me, ye shining hosts  
 “ That navigate a sea that knows no storms  
 “ Beneath a vault unfullied with a cloud,  
 “ If from your elevation, whence ye view  
 “ Distinctly scenes invisible to man,  
 “ And systems of whose birth no tidings yet  
 “ Have reach'd this nether world, ye spy a race  
 “ Favor'd as our's, transgressors from the womb  
 “ And hast'ning to a grave, yet doom'd to rise,  
 “ And to possess a brighter heav'n than yours ?

As

“ As one who long detain’d on foreign shores  
 “ Pants to return, and when he sees afar  
 “ His country’s weather-bleach’d and batter’d rocks  
 “ From the green wave emerging, darts an eye  
 “ Radiant with joy towards the happy land;  
 “ So I with animated hopes behold  
 “ And many an aching wish, your beamy fires,  
 “ That shew like beacons in the blue abyfs  
 “ Ordain’d to guide th’ embodied spirit home  
 “ From toilsome life to never-ending rest.  
 “ Love kindles as I gaze. I feel desires  
 “ That give assurance of their own success,  
 “ And that infused from heav’n, must thither tend.”

So reads he nature whom the lamp of truth  
 Illuminates. Thy lamp, mysterious word!  
 Which who so sees, no longer wanders lost  
 With intellects bemazed in endless doubt,  
 But runs the road of wisdom. Thou hast built  
 With means that were not till by thee employ’d,

Worlds



World's that had never been had'st thou in strength  
 Been less, or less benevolent than strong,  
 They are thy witnessess, who speak thy pow'r  
 And goodness infinite, but speak in ears  
 That hear not, or receive not their report.  
 In vain thy creatures testify of thee  
 'Till thou proclaim thyself. Their's is indeed  
 A teaching voice; but 'tis the praise of thine  
 That whom it teaches it makes prompt to learn,  
 And with the boon gives talents for its use.  
 'Till thou art heard, imaginations vain  
 Possess the heart, and fables false as hell  
 Yet deemed oracular, lure down to death  
 The uninform'd and heedless souls of men.  
 We give to chance, blind chance, ourselves as blind,  
 The glory of thy work, which yet appears  
 Perfect and unimpeachable of blame,  
 Challenging human scrutiny, and proved  
 Then skilful most when most severely judged.  
 But chance is not; or is not where thou reign'st:

Thy providence forbids that fickle pow'r  
 (If pow'r she be that works but to confound)  
 To mix her wild vagaries with thy laws.  
 Yet thus we doat, refusing while we can  
 Instruction, and inventing to ourselves  
 Gods such as guilt makes welcome, Gods that sleep,  
 Or disregard our follies, or that sit  
 Amused spectators of this bustling stage.  
 Thee we reject, unable to abide  
 Thy purity, 'till pure as thou art pure,  
 Made such by thee, we love thee for that cause  
 For which we shunn'd and hated thee before.  
 Then we are free. Then liberty like day  
 Breaks on the soul, and by a flash from heav'n  
 Fires all the faculties with glorious joy.  
 A voice is heard that mortal ears hear not.  
 'Till thou hast touch'd them; 'tis the voice of song,  
 A loud Hosanna sent from all thy works,  
 Which he that hears it with a shout repeats,  
 And adds his rapture to the gen'ral praise.

In that blest moment, nature throwing wide  
 Her veil opaque, discloses with a smile  
 The author of her beauties, who retired  
 Behind his own creation, works unseen  
 By the impure, and hears his pow'r denied.  
 Thou art the source and centre of all minds,  
 Their only point of rest, eternal word !  
 From thee departing, they are lost and rove  
 At random, without honor, hope, or peace.  
 From thee is all that fooths the life of man,  
 His high endeavour, and his glad success,  
 His strength to suffer and his will to serve.  
 But oh thou bounteous giver of all good,  
 Thou art of all thy gifts thyself the crown !  
 Give what thou can'st, without thee we are poor,  
 And with thee rich, take what thou wilt away,

## ARGUMENT of the SIXTH BOOK.

*Bells at a distance.—Their effect.—A fine noon in winter.—A sheltered walk.—Meditation better than books.—Our familiarity with the course of nature makes it appear less wonderful than it is.—The transformation that spring effects in a shrubbery described.—A mistake concerning the course of nature corrected.—God maintains it by an unremitted act.—The amusements fashionable at this hour of the day reprov'd.—Animals happy, a delightful sight.—Origin of cruelty to animals.—That it is a great crime proved from scripture.—That proof illustrated by a tale.—A line drawn between the lawful and the unlawful destruction of them.—Their good and useful properties insisted on.—Apology for the encomiums bestowed by the author on animals.—Instances of man's extravagant praise of man.—The groans of the creation shall have an end.—A view taken of the restoration of all things.—An Invocation and an Invitation of him who shall bring it to pass.—The retired man vindicated from the charge of uselessness.—Conclusion.*

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B O O K VI.

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THE WINTER WALK AT NOON.

THERE is in souls a sympathy with sounds,  
And as the mind is pitch'd the ear is pleas'd  
With melting airs or martial, brisk or grave.  
Some chord in unison with what we hear  
Is touched within us, and the heart replies.  
How soft the music of those village bells  
Falling at intervals upon the ear  
In cadence sweet! now dying all away,  
Now pealing loud again and louder still,  
Clear and sonorous as the gale comes on.  
With easy force it opens all the cells

Where mem'ry slept. Wherever I have heard  
 A kindred melody, the scene recurs,  
 And with it all its pleasures and its pains.  
 Such comprehensive views the spirit takes,  
 That in a few short moments I retrace  
 (As in a map the voyager his course)  
 The windings of my way through many years.  
 Short as in retrospect the journey seems,  
 It seem'd not always short; the rugged path  
 And prospect oft so dreary and forlorn  
 Moved many a sigh at its disheart'ning length.  
 Yet feeling present evils, while the past  
 Faintly impress the mind, or not at all,  
 How readily we wish time spent revoked,  
 That we might try the ground again, where once  
 (Through inexperience as we now perceive)  
 We miss'd that happiness we might have found.  
 Some friend is gone, perhaps his son's best friend  
 A father, whose authority, in show

When

When most severe, and must'ring all its force,  
 Was but the graver countenance of love.  
 Whose favour like the clouds of spring, might low'r  
 And utter now and then an awful voice,  
 But had a blessing in its darkest frown,  
 Threat'ning at once and nourishing the plant.  
 We loved, but not enough the gentle hand  
 That reared us. At a thoughtless age allured  
 By ev'ry gilded folly, we renounced  
 His shelt'ring side, and wilfully forewent  
 That converse which we now in vain regret.  
 How gladly would the man recall to life  
 The boy's neglected fire! a mother too,  
 That softer friend, perhaps more gladly still  
 Might he demand them at the gates of death.  
 Sorrow has since they went subdued and tamed  
 The playful humour, he could now endure,  
 (Himself grown sober in the vale of tears)  
 And feel a parent's presence no restraint.  
 But not to understand a treasure's worth

'Till

'Till time has stol'n away the flighted good,  
 Is cause of half the poverty we feel,  
 And makes the world the wilderness it is,  
 The few that pray at all pray oft amiss,  
 And seeking grace t' improve the prize they hold,  
 Would urge a wiser suit, than asking more.

The night was winter in his roughest mood,  
 The morning sharp and clear. But now at noon  
 Upon the southern side of the slant hills,  
 And where the woods fence off the northern blast,  
 The season smiles resigning all its rage  
 And has the warmth of May. The vault is blue  
 Without a cloud, and white without a speck  
 The dazzling splendour of the scene below.  
 Again the harmony comes o'er the vale,  
 And through the trees I view th' embattled tow'r  
 Whence all the music. I again perceive  
 The soothing influence of the wafted strains,  
 And fettle in soft musings as I tread



The walk still verdant under oaks and elms,  
 Whose outspread branches overarch the glade.  
 The roof though moveable through all its length  
 As the wind sways it, has yet well sufficed,  
 And intercepting in their silent fall  
 The frequent flakes, has kept a path for me.  
 No noise is here, or none that hinders thought.  
 The red-breast warbles still, but is content  
 With slender notes and more than half suppress'd.  
 Pleased with his solitude, and fitting light  
 From spray to spray, where'er he rests he shakes  
 From many a twig the pendent drops of ice,  
 That tinkle in the wither'd leaves below.  
 Stillness accompanied with sounds so soft  
 Charms more than silence. Meditation here  
 May think down hours to moments. Here the heart  
 May give an useful lesson to the head,  
 And learning wiser grow without his books.  
 Knowledge and wisdom, far from being one,  
 Have oft times no connexion. Knowledge dwells

In heads replete with thoughts of other men,  
 Wisdom in minds attentive to their own.  
 Knowledge, a rude unprofitable mass,  
 The mere materials with which wisdom builds,  
 'Till smooth'd and squared and fitted to its place  
 Does but incumber whom it seems t' enrich.  
 Knowledge is proud that he has learn'd so much,  
 Wisdom is humble that he knows no more.  
 Books are not seldom talismans and spells  
 By which the magic art of shrewder wits  
 Holds an unthinking multitude enthral'd,  
 Some to the fascination of a name  
 Surrender judgment hood-wink'd. Some the stile  
 Infatuates, and through labyrinths and wilds  
 Of error, leads them by a tune entranced.  
 While sloth seduces more, too weak to bear  
 The insupportable fatigue of thought,  
 And swallowing therefore without pause or choice  
 The total grist unsifted, husks and all.  
 But trees, and rivulets whose rapid course

Defies the check of winter, haunts of deer,  
 And sheep-walks populous with bleating lambs,  
 And lanes in which the primrose 'ere her time  
 Peeps through the moss that cloaths the hawthorn root,  
 Deceive no student. Wisdom there, and truth,  
 Not shy as in the world, and to be won  
 By slow solicitation, seize at once  
 The roving thought, and fix it on themselves.

What prodigies can pow'r divine perform  
 More grand, than it produces year by year,  
 And all in sight of inattentive man?  
 Familiar with th' effect we slight the cause,  
 And in the constancy of nature's course,  
 The regular return of genial months,  
 And renovation of a faded world,  
 See nought to wonder at. Should God again  
 As once in Gibeon, interrupt the race  
 Of the undeviating and punctual sun,  
 How would the world admire! but speaks it less

An agency divine, to make him know  
 His moment when to sink and when to rise  
 Age after age, than to arrest his course?  
 All we behold is miracle, but seen  
 So duly, all is miracle in vain.  
 Where now the vital energy that moved  
 While summer was, the pure and subtle lymph  
 Through th' imperceptible mæandring veins  
 Of leaf and flow'r? It sleeps; and the icy touch  
 Of unprolific winter has impress'd  
 A cold stagnation on th' intestine tide.  
 But let the months go round, a few short months,  
 And all shall be restored. These naked shoots  
 Barren as lances, among which the wind  
 Makes wintry music, fighting as it goes,  
 Shall put their graceful foliage on again,  
 And more aspiring and with ampler spread  
 Shall boast new charms, and more than they have lost.  
 Then, each in its peculiar honors clad,  
 Shall publish even to the distant eye

Its family and tribe. Laburnum rich  
 In streaming gold; fyinga iv'ry-pure;  
 The scented and the scentless rose; this red  
 And of an humbler growth, the \*other tall,  
 And throwing up into the darkest gloom  
 Of neighb'ring cypress or more fable yew.  
 Her silver globes, light as the foamy surf  
 That the wind severs from the broken wave.  
 The lilac various in array, now white,  
 Now sanguine, and her beauteous head now set  
 With purple spikes pyramidal, as if  
 Studious of ornament, yet unresolved  
 Which hue she most approved, she chose them all.  
 Copious of flow'rs the woodbine, pale and wan,  
 But well compensating their sickly looks  
 With never-cloying odours, early and late.  
 Hypericum all bloom, so thick a swarm  
 Of flow'rs like flies cloathing her slender rods  
 That scarce a leaf appears. Mezerion too  
 Though leafless well attired, and thick beset

With

\* The Guelder-rose.

With blushing wreaths investing ev'ry spray.  
 Althæa with the purple eye, the broom,  
 Yellow and bright as bullion unalloy'd  
 Her blossoms, and luxuriant above all  
 The jasmine, throwing wide her elegant sweets,  
 The deep dark green of whose unvarnish'd leaf  
 Makes more conspicuous, and illumines more  
 The bright profusion of her scatter'd stars.—  
 These have been, and these shall be in their day.  
 And all this uniform uncoloured scene  
 Shall be dismantled of its fleecy load,  
 And flush into variety again.  
 From dearth to plenty, and from death to life,  
 Is Nature's progress when she lectures man  
 In heav'nly truth; evincing as she makes  
 The grand transition, that there lives and works  
 A soul in all things, and that soul is God.  
 The beauties of the wilderness are his,  
 That make so gay the solitary place  
 Where no eye sees them. And the fairer forms

That cultivation glories in, are his.  
 He sets the bright procession on its way,  
 And marshals all the order of the year.  
 He marks the bounds which winter may not pass,  
 And blunts his pointed fury. In its case  
 Ruffet and rude, folds up the tender germ  
 Uninjured, with inimitable art,  
 And 'ere one flow'ry season fades and dies  
 Designs the blooming wonders of the next.

Some say that in the origin of things  
 When all creation started into birth,  
 The infant elements received a law  
 From which they swerve not since. That under force  
 Of that controuling ordinance they move,  
 And need not his immediate hand, who first  
 Prescribed their course, to regulate it now.  
 Thus dream they, and contrive to save a God  
 The incumbrance of his own concerns, and spare  
 The great Artificer of all that moves

The stress of a continual act, the pain  
 Of unremitted vigilance and care,  
 As too laborious and severe a task.  
 No man the moth, is not afraid it seems  
 To span Omnipotence, and measure might  
 That knows no measure, by the scanty rule  
 And standard of his own, that is to day,  
 And is not, 'ere to-morrow's sun go down.  
 But how should matter occupy a charge  
 Dull as it is, and satisfy a law  
 So vast in its demands, unless impell'd  
 To ceaseless service by a ceaseless force,  
 And under pressure of some conscious cause?  
 The Lord of all, himself through all diffused,  
 Sustains and is the life of all that lives.  
 Nature is but a name for an effect  
 Whose cause is God. He feeds the secret fire  
 By which the mighty process is maintain'd,  
 Who sleeps not, is not weary; in whose sight  
 Slow-circling ages are as transient days;



Whose work is without labor, whose design  
 No flaw deforms, no difficulty thwarts,  
 And whose beneficence no charge exhausts.  
 Him blind antiquity profaned, not serv'd,  
 With self-taught rites and under various names  
 Female and male, Pomona; Pales, Pan,  
 And Flora and Vertumnus; peopling earth  
 With tutelary goddesses and gods  
 That were not, and commending as they would  
 To each some province, garden, field, or grove.  
 But all are under one. One spirit—His  
 Who wore the platted thorns with bleeding brows,  
 Rules universal nature. Not a flow'r  
 But shows some touch in freckle, streak or stain,  
 Of his unrivall'd pencil. He inspires  
 Their balmy odors and imparts their hues,  
 And bathes their eyes with nectar, and includes  
 In grains as countless as the sea-side sands,  
 The forms with which he sprinkles all the earth.  
 Happy who walks with him! whom what he finds

Of flavour or of scent in fruit or flow'r,  
 Or what he views of beautiful or grand  
 In Nature, from the broad majestic oak  
 To the green blade that twinkles in the sun,  
 Prompts with remembrance of a present God.  
 His presence who made all so fair, perceived,  
 Makes all still fairer. As with him no scene  
 Is dreary, so with him all seasons please.  
 Though winter had been none, had man been true,  
 And earth be punished for its tenant's sake,  
 Yet not in vengeance; as this smiling sky  
 So soon succeeding such an angry night,  
 And these dissolving snows, and this clear stream  
 Recov'ring fast its liquid music, prove.

Who then that has a mind well strung and tuned  
 To contemplation, and within his reach  
 A scene so friendly to his fav'rite task,  
 Would waste attention at the chequer'd board,  
 His host of wooden warriors to and fro

Marching and counter-marching, with an eye  
 As fixt as marble; with a forehead ridged  
 And furrow'd into storms, and with a hand  
 Trembling, as if eternity were hung  
 In balance on his conduct of a pin?  
 Nor envies he aught more their idle sport  
 Who pant with application misapplied  
 To trivial toys, and pushing iv'ry balls  
 Across the velvet level, feel a joy  
 Akin to rapture, when the bawble finds  
 Its destin'd goal of difficult access.  
 Nor deems he wiser him, who gives his noon  
 To Miss, the Mercer's plague, from shop to shop  
 Wand'ring, and litt'ring with unfolded silks  
 The polished counter, and approving none,  
 Or promising with smiles to call again.  
 Nor him, who by his vanity seduced  
 And sooth'd into a dream that he discerns  
 The difference of a Guido from a daub,  
 Frequents the crowded auction. Station'd there

As duely as the Langford of the show,  
 With glafs at eye, and catalogue in hand,  
 And tongue accomplifh'd in the fulfome cant  
 And pedantry that coxcombs learn with eafe,  
 Oft as the price-deciding hammer falls  
 He notes it in his book, then raps his box  
 Swears 'tis a bargain; rails at his hard fate  
 That he has let it pafs—but never bids.

Here unmolested, through whatever fign  
 The fun proceeds, I wander. Neither mift,  
 Nor freezing fky, nor fultry, checking me,  
 Nor ftranger intermeddling with my joy.  
 Ev'n in the fpring and play-time of the year  
 That calls the unwonted villager abroad  
 With all her little ones, a sportive train,  
 To gather king-cups in the yellow mead,  
 And prink their hair with daisies, or to pick  
 A cheap but wholefome fallad from the brook,  
 Thefe fhades are all my own. The tim'rous hare

Grown so familiar with her frequent guest  
 Scarce shuns me; and the stock-dove unalarm'd  
 Sits cooing in the pine-tree, nor suspends  
 His long love-ditty for my near approach,  
 Drawn from his refuge in some lonely elm  
 That age or injury has hollow'd deep,  
 Where on his bed of wool and matted leaves  
 He has outslept the winter, ventures forth  
 To frisk awhile, and bask in the warm sun,  
 The squirrel, flippant, pert, and full of play,  
 He sees me, and at once, swift as a bird  
 Ascends the neighb'ring beech; there whisks his brush  
 And perks his ears, and stamps and scolds aloud,  
 With all the prettiness of feign'd alarm,  
 And anger insignificantly fierce,

The heart is hard in nature, and unfit  
 For human fellowship, as being void  
 Of sympathy, and therefore dead alike  
 To love and friendship both, that is not pleas'd

With sight of animals enjoying life,  
 Nor feels their happiness augment his own.  
 The bounding fawn that darts across the glade  
 When none pursues, through mere delight of heart,  
 And spirits buoyant with excess of glee;  
 The horse, as wanton and almost as fleet,  
 That skims the spacious meadow at full speed,  
 Then stops and snorts, and throwing high his heels  
 Starts to the voluntary race again;  
 The very kine that gambol at high noon,  
 The total herd receiving first from one  
 That leads the dance, a summons to be gay,  
 Though wild their strange vagaries, and uncouth  
 Their efforts, yet resolved with one consent  
 To give such act and utterance as they may  
 To extasy too big to be suppress'd—  
 These, and a thousand images of bliss,  
 With which kind nature graces ev'ry scene  
 Where cruel man defeats not her design,  
 Impart to the benevolent, who wish;

All that are capable of pleasure, pleased,  
 A far superior happiness to theirs,  
 The comfort of a reasonable joy.

Man scarce had ris'n, obedient to his call  
 Who form'd him, from the dust his future grave,  
 When he was crown'd as never king was since,  
 God set the diadem upon his head,  
 And angel choirs attended. Wond'ring stood  
 The new-made monarch, while before him pass'd,  
 All happy and all perfect in their kind  
 The creatures, summon'd from their various haunts  
 To see their sov'reign, and confess his sway.  
 Vast was his empire, absolute his pow'r,  
 Or bounded only by a law whose force  
 'Twas his sublimest privilege to feel  
 And own, the law of universal love.  
 He ruled with meekness, they obeyed with joy.  
 No cruel purpose lurk'd within his heart,  
 And no distrust of his intent in theirs.

So Eden was a scene of harmless sport,  
 Where kindness' on his part who ruled the whole  
 Begat a tranquil confidence in all,  
 And fear as yet was not, nor cause for fear.  
 But sin marr'd all. . . . And the revolt of man,  
 That source of evils not exhausted yet,  
 Was punish'd with revolt of his from him.  
 Garden of God, how terrible the change  
 Thy groves and lawns then witness'd ! ev'ry heart,  
 Each animal of ev'ry name, conceived  
 A jealousy and an instinctive fear,  
 And conscious of some danger, either fled  
 Precipitate the loath'd abode of man,  
 Or growl'd defiance in such angry sort,  
 As taught him too to tremble in his turn.  
 Thus harmony and family accord  
 Were driv'n from Paradise ; and in that hour  
 The seeds of cruelty that since have swell'd  
 To such gigantic and enormous growth,  
 Were sown in human nature's fruitful soil.

Hence



Hence date the persecution and the pain  
 That man inflicts on all inferior kinds  
 Regardless of their plaints: To make him sport,  
 To gratify the frenzy of his wrath;  
 Or his base gluttony, are causes good.  
 And just in his account, why bird and beast  
 Should suffer torture, and the streams be dyed  
 With blood of their inhabitants impaled.  
 Earth groans beneath the burthen of a war  
 Waged with defenceless innocence, while he,  
 Not satisfied to prey on all around,  
 Adds tenfold bitterness to death, by pangs  
 Needless, and first torments 'ere he devours.  
 Now happiest they that occupy the scenes  
 The most remote from his abhorr'd resort,  
 Whom once as delegate of God on earth  
 They fear'd, and as his perfect image loved.  
 The wilderness is theirs with all its caves,  
 Its hollow glens, its thickets, and its plains  
 Unvisited by man. There they are free,

And

And howl and roar as likes them, uncontroll'd,  
 Nor ask his leave to slumber or to play.  
 Woe to the tyrant if he dare intrude  
 Within the confines of their wild domain;  
 The lion tells him—I am monarch here—  
 And if he spare him, spares him on the terms  
 Of royal mercy, and through gen'rous scorn  
 To rend a victim trembling at his foot.  
 In measure as by force of instinct drawn,  
 Or by necessity constrain'd, they live  
 Dependent upon man, those in his fields,  
 These at his crib, and some beneath his roof,  
 They prove too often at how dear a rate  
 He sells protection. Witness, at his foot  
 The spaniel dying for some venial fault,  
 Under dissection of the knotted scourge.  
 Witness, the patient ox, with stripes and yells  
 Driv'n to the slaughter, goaded as he runs  
 To madness, while the savage at his heels  
 Laughs at the frantic sufferers fury spent

Upon the guiltless passenger o'erthrown.  
 He too is witness, noblest of the train  
 That wait on man, the flight-performing horse.  
 With unsuspecting readiness he takes  
 His murth'rer on his back, and push'd all day  
 With bleeding sides and flanks that heave for life  
 To the far-distant goal, arrives and dies.  
 So little mercy shows who needs so much!  
 Does law, so jealous in the cause of man,  
 Denounce no doom on the delinquent? None.  
 He lives, and o'er his brimming beaker boasts  
 (As if barbarity were high desert).  
 Th' inglorious feat, and clamorous in praise  
 Of the poor brute, seems wisely to suppose  
 The honors of his matchless horse his own.  
 But many a crime, deem'd innocent on earth,  
 Is register'd in heav'n, and these no doubt,  
 Have each their record, with a curse annex.  
 Man may dismiss compassion from his heart,  
 But God will never. When he charged the Jew

'T' assist his foe's down-fallen beast to rise,  
 And when the bush-exploring boy that seized  
 The young, to let the parent bird go free,  
 Proved he not plainly that his meaner works  
 Are yet his care, and have an interest all,  
 All, in the universal father's love.

On Noah, and in him on all mankind  
 The charter was conferr'd by which we hold  
 The flesh of animals in fee, and claim  
 O'er all we feed on; pow'r of life and death  
 But read the instrument, and mark it well,  
 Th' oppression of a tyrannous controul  
 Can find no warrant there: Feed then, and yield  
 Thanks for thy food... Carnivorous through sin  
 Feed on the slain, but spare the living brute,

The Governor of all; himself to all  
 So bountiful, in whose attentive ear  
 The unfledged raven and the lion's whelp  
 Plead not in vain for pity on the pangs

Of hunger unassuaged, has interposed,  
 Not seldom, his avenging arm, to smite  
 Th' injurious trampler upon nature's law  
 That claims forbearance even for a brute.  
 He hates the hardness of a Balaam's heart ;  
 And prophet as he was, he might not strike  
 The blameless animal, without rebuke,  
 On which he rode. Her opportune offence  
 Saved him, or th' unrelenting fear had died.  
 He sees that human equity is slack  
 To interfere, though in so just a cause,  
 And makes the task his own. Inspiring dumb  
 And helpless victims with a sense so keen  
 Of injury, with such knowledge of their strength,  
 And such sagacity to take revenge,  
 That oft the beast has seemed to judge the man.  
 An ancient, not a legendary tale,  
 By one of sound intelligence rehears'd  
 (If such, who plead for Providence, may seem  
 In modern eyes) shall make the doctrine clear.

Where

Where England stretch'd towards the setting sun  
 Narrow and long, o'erlooks the western wave,  
 Dwelt young Misagathus. A scorner he  
 Of God and goodness, atheist in ostent,  
 Vicious in act, in temper savage-fierce.  
 He journey'd, and his chance was as he went,  
 To join a trav'ler of far different note  
 Evander, famed for piety, for years  
 Deserving honor, but for wisdom more.  
 Fame had not left the venerable man  
 A stranger to the manners of the youth,  
 Whose face too was familiar to his view.  
 Their way was on the margin of the land,  
 O'er the green summit of the rocks whose base  
 Beats back the roaring surge, scarce heard so high.  
 The charity that warm'd his heart was moved  
 At sight of the man-monster. With a smile  
 Gentle, and affable, and full of grace,  
 As fearful of offending whom he wish'd  
 Much to persuade, he plied his ear with truths

Not harshly thunder'd forth or rudely press'd,  
 But like his purpose, gracious, kind, and sweet.  
 And dost thou dream, th' impenetrable man  
 Exclaim'd, that me, the lullabies of age  
 And fantasies of dotards such as thou  
 Can cheat, or move a moment's fear in me ?  
 Mark now the proof I give thee, that the brave  
 Need no such aids as superstition lends  
 To steel their hearts against the dread of death.  
 He spoke, and to the precipice at hand  
 Push'd with a madman's fury. Fancy shrinks,  
 And the blood thrills and curdles at the thought  
 Of such a gulph as he design'd his grave.  
 But though the felon on his back could dare  
 The dreadful leap, more rational his steed  
 Declined the death, and wheeling swiftly round  
 Or 'ere his hoof had press'd the crumbling verge,  
 Baffled his rider, saved against his will.  
 The frenzy of the brain may be redress'd  
 By med'cine well applied, but without grace

The heart's insanity admits no cure.  
 Enraged the more by what might have reform'd  
 His horrible intent, again he fought  
 Destruction with a zeal to be destroyed,  
 With founding whip and rowels dyed in blood.  
 But still in vain. The providence that meant  
 A longer date to the far nobler beast,  
 Spared yet again th' ignobler for his sake.  
 And now, his prowess proved, and his sincere  
 Incurable obduracy evinced,  
 His rage grew cool; and pleased perhaps t' have earn'd  
 So cheaply the renown of that attempt,  
 With looks of some complacence he resumed  
 His road, deriding much the blank amaze  
 Of good Evander, still where he was left  
 Fixt motionless, and petrified with dread.  
 So on they fared; discourse on other themes  
 Ensuing, seem'd to obliterate the past,  
 And tamer far for so much fury shown,  
 (As is the course of rash and fiery men)



The rude companion smiled as if transform'd.  
 But 'twas a transient calm. A storm was near,  
 An unsuspected storm. His hour was come.  
 The impious challenger of pow'r divine  
 Was now to learn, that heav'n though slow to wrath,  
 Is never with impunity defied.  
 His horse; as he had caught his master's mood,  
 Snorting, and starting into sudden rage,  
 Unbidden, and not now to be controul'd,  
 Rush'd to the cliff, and having reach'd it, stood.  
 At once the shock unseated him. He flew  
 Sheer o'er the craggy barrier, and immersed  
 Deep in the flood, found, when he sought it not,  
 The death he had deserved, and died alone.  
 So God wrought double justice; made the fool  
 The victim of his own tremendous choice  
 And taught a brute the way to safe revenge.

I would not enter on my list of friends

(Though grac'd with polish'd manners and fine sense

Yet wanting sensibility) the man  
 Who needlessly sets foot upon a worm,  
 An inadvertent step may crush the snail  
 That crawls at evening in the public path,  
 But he that has humanity, forewarned,  
 Will tread aside, and let the reptile live.  
 The creeping vermin, loathsome to the sight,  
 And charged perhaps with venom, that intrudes  
 A visitor unwelcome into scenes  
 Sacred to neatness and repose, th' alcove,  
 The chamber, or refectory, may die.  
 A necessary act incurs no blame.  
 Not so when held within their proper bounds  
 And guiltless of offence, they range the air,  
 Or take their pastime in the spacious field.  
 There they are privileged. And he that hunts  
 Or harms them there, is guilty of a wrong,  
 Disturbs th' oeconomy of nature's realm,  
 Who when she form'd, designed them an abode.  
 The sum is this : if man's convenience, health,

Or safety interfere, his rights and claims  
 Are paramount, and must extinguish theirs.  
 Else they are all—the meanest things that are,  
 As free to live and to enjoy that life,  
 As God was free to form them at the first,  
 Who in his sov'reign wisdom made them all.  
 Ye therefore who love mercy, teach your sons  
 To love it too. The spring-time of our years  
 Is soon dishonour'd and defiled in most  
 By budding ills, that ask a prudent hand  
 To check them. But alas! none sooner shoots,  
 If unrestrain'd, into luxuriant growth,  
 Than cruelty, most dev'lish of them all.  
 Mercy to him that shows it, is the rule  
 And righteous limitation of its act  
 By which heav'n moves in pard'ning guilty man;  
 And he that shows none, being ripe in years,  
 And conscious of the out'rage he commits  
 Shall seek it, and not find it in his turn.

Distinguish'd much by reason, and still more  
 By our capacity of grace divine,  
 From creatures that exist but for our sake,  
 Which having served us, perish, we are held  
 Accountable, and God, some future day,  
 Will reckon with us roundly for th' abuse  
 Of what he deems no mean or trivial trust,  
 Superior as we are, they yet depend  
 Not more on human help, than we on theirs.  
 Their strength, or speed, or vigilance, were given  
 In aid of our defects. In some are found  
 Such teachable and apprehensive parts,  
 That man's attainments in his own concerns  
 Match'd with th' expertness of the brutes in theirs,  
 Are oft-times vanquish'd and thrown far behind.  
 Some show that nice sagacity of smell,  
 And read with such discernment, in the pores  
 And figure of the man, his secret aim,  
 That oft we owe our safety to a skill  
 We could not teach, and must despair to learn.

But learn we might, if not too proud to stoop  
 To quadrupede instructors, many a good  
 And useful quality, and virtue too,  
 Rarely exemplified among ourselves.

Attachment never to be wean'd, or changed  
 By any change of fortune, proof alike  
 Against unkindness, absence, and neglect;  
 Fidelity, that neither bribe nor threat  
 Can move or warp, and gratitude for small  
 And trivial favors, lasting as the life,  
 And glist'ning even in the dying eye.

Man praises man. Desert in arts or arms  
 Wins public honor; and ten thousand fit  
 Patiently present at a sacred song,  
 Commemoration-mad; content to hear  
 (Oh wonderful effect of music's pow'r!)  
 Messiah's eulogy, for Handel's sake.

But less, methinks, than sacrilege might serve—  
 (For was it less? What heathen would have dared

To strip Jove's statue of his oaken wreath  
 And hang it up in honor of a man!)  
 Much less might serve, when all that we design  
 Is but to gratify an itching ear,  
 And give the day to a musician's praise.  
 Remember Handel? who that was not born  
 Deaf as the dead to harmony, forgets,  
 Or can, the more than Homer of his age?  
 Yes—we remember him. And while we praise  
 A talent so divine, remember too  
 That His most holy book from whom it came  
 Was never meant, was never used before  
 To buckram out the mem'ry of a man.  
 But hush!—the muse perhaps is too severe,  
 And with a gravity beyond the size  
 And measure of th' offence, rebukes a deed  
 Less impious than absurd, and owing more  
 To want of judgment than to wrong design.  
 So in the chapel of old Ely House,  
 When wand'ring Charles, who meant to be the third,  
Had

Had fled from William, and the news was fresh,  
 The simple clerk but loyal, did announce,  
 And eke did rear right merrily, two staves,  
 Sung to the praise and glory of King George.

—Man praises man, and Garrick's mem'ry next,  
 When time hath somewhat mellow'd it, and made  
 The idol of our worship while he lived,  
 The God of our idolatry once more,  
 Shall have its altar ; and the world shall go  
 In pilgrimage to bow before his shrine.

The theatre too small, shall suffocate  
 Its squeezed contents, and more than it admits  
 Shall sigh at their exclusion, and return  
 Ungratified. For there some noble lord  
 Shall stuff his shoulders with king Richard's bunch,  
 Or wrap himself in Hamlet's inky cloak,  
 And strut, and storm and straddle, stamp and stare,  
 To show the world how Garrick did not act,  
 For Garrick was a worshipper himself ;  
 He drew the Liturgy, and framed the rites

And

And solemn ceremonial of the day,  
 And call'd the world to worship on the banks  
 Of Avon famed in song. Ah pleasant proof!  
 That piety has still in human hearts  
 Some place, a spark or two not yet extinct.  
 The mulb'ry tree was hung with blooming wreaths,  
 The mulb'ry tree stood center of the dance,  
 The mulb'ry tree was hymn'd with dulcet airs,  
 And from his touchwood trunk, the mulb'ry tree  
 Supplied such relics, as devotion holds  
 Still sacred, and preserves with pious care.  
 So 'twas an hallow'd time. Decorum reign'd,  
 And mirth without offence. No few return'd  
 Doubtless much edified, and all refreshed.  
 —Man praises man. The rabble all alive,  
 From tipling-benches, cellars, stalls, and styes,  
 Swarm in the streets. The statesman of the day,  
 A pompous and slow-moving pageant comes.  
 Some shout him, and some hang upon his car  
 To gaze in's eyes and bless him. Maidens wave

Their



Their kerchiefs, and old women weep for joy.  
 While others not so satisfied unhorse  
 The gilded equipage, and turning loose  
 His steeds, usurp a place they well deserve.  
 Why? what has charm'd them? Hath he saved the state;  
 No. Doth he purpose its salvation? No.  
 Enchanting novelty, that moon at full,  
 That finds out ev'ry crevice of the head  
 That is not found and perfect, hath in theirs  
 Wrought this disturbance. But the wane is near,  
 And his own cattle must suffice him soon.  
 Thus idly do we waste the breath of praise,  
 And dedicate a tribute, in its use  
 And just direction, sacred, to a thing  
 Doomed to the dust, or lodged already there.  
 Encomium in old time was poet's work.  
 But poets having lavishly long since  
 Exhausted all materials of the art,  
 The task now falls into the public hand.  
 And I, contented with an humble theme,

Have

Have poured my stream of panegyric down  
 The vale of nature, where it creeps and winds  
 Among her lovely works, with a secure  
 And unambitious course, reflecting clear  
 If not the virtues yet the worth of brutes,  
 And I am recompensed, and deem the toils  
 Of poetry not lost, if verse of mine  
 May stand between an animal and woe,  
 And teach one tyrant pity for his drudge,

The groans of nature in this nether world  
 Which heav'n has heard for ages, have an end,  
 Foretold by prophets, and by poets sung  
 Whose fire was kindled at the prophets lamp,  
 The time of rest, the promised sabbath comes,  
 Six thousand years of sorrow have well-nigh  
 Fulfilled their tardy and disastrous course  
 Over a sinful world. And what remains  
 Of this tempestuous state of human things,  
 Is merely as the working of a sea

Before

Before a calm, that rocks itself to rest,  
 For he whose car the winds are, and the clouds  
 The dust that waits upon his fultry march  
 When sin hath moved him, and his wrath is hot,  
 Shall visit earth in mercy ; shall descend  
 Propitious, in his chariot paved with love,  
 And what his storms have blasted and defaced  
 For man's revolt, shall with a smile repair.

Sweet is the harp of prophecy. Too sweet  
 Not to be wrong'd by a mere mortal touch ;  
 Nor can the wonders it records, be sung  
 To meaner music, and not suffer loss.  
 But when a poet, or when one like me,  
 Happy to rove among poetic flow'rs  
 Though poor in skill to rear them, lights at last  
 On some fair theme, some theme divinely fair,  
 Such is the impulse and the spur he feels  
 To give it praise proportioned to its worth,

That

That not t' attempt it, arduous as he deems  
The labor, were a task more arduous still.

Our scenes surpassing fable, and yet true,  
Scenes of accomplish'd bliss ! which who can see  
Though but in distant prospect, and not feel  
His soul refresh'd with foretaste of the joy ?  
Rivers of gladness water all the earth,  
And clothe all climes with beauty ; the reproach  
Of barrenness is past. The fruitful field  
Laughs with abundance, and the land once lean,  
Or fertile only in its own disgrace,  
Exults to see its thistly curse repealed.  
The various seasons woven into one,  
And that one season an eternal spring,  
The garden fears no blight, and needs no fence  
For there is none to covet, all are full.  
The lion and the libbard and the bear  
Graze with the fearless flocks. All bask at noon  
Together, or all gambol in the shade

Of the same grove, and drink one common stream.  
 Antipathies are none. No foe to man  
 Lurks in the serpent now. The mother sees  
 And smiles to see her infant's playful hand  
 Stretch'd forth to dally with the crested worm,  
 To stroak his azure neck, or to receive  
 The lambent homage of his arrowy tongue.  
 All creatures worship man, and all mankind  
 One Lord, one Father. Error has no place;  
 That creeping pestilence is driv'n away,  
 The breath of heav'n has chafed it. In the heart  
 No passion touches a discordant string,  
 But all is harmony and love. Disease  
 Is not. The pure and uncontaminate blood  
 Holds its due course, nor fears the frost of age.  
 One song employs all nations, and all cry  
 "Worthy the Lamb, for he was slain for us"  
 The dwellers in the vales and on the rocks  
 Shout to each other, and the mountain tops  
 From distant mountains catch the flying joy,

'Till nation after nation taught the strain,  
 Earth rolls the rapturous Hosanna round.  
 Behold the measure of the promise filled,  
 See Salem built, the labour of a God!  
 Bright as a sun the sacred city shines ;  
 All kingdoms and all princes of the earth  
 Flock to that light ; the glory of all lands  
 Flows into her, unbounded is her joy  
 And endless her encrease. Thy rams are there  
 \* Nebaioth, and the flocks of Kedar there ;  
 The looms of Ormus, and the mines of Ind,  
 And Saba's spicey groves pay tribute there.  
 Praise is in all her gates. Upon her walls,  
 And in her streets, and in her spacious courts  
 Is heard salvation. Eastern Java there  
 Kneels with the native of the farthest West,

\* Nebaioth and Kedar the sons of Ishmael and progenitors of the Arabs, in the prophetic scripture here alluded to, may be reasonably considered as representatives of the Gentiles at large.

And Æthiopia spreads abroad the hand  
 And worships. Her report has travell'd forth  
 Into all lands. From every clime they come  
 To see thy beauty and to share thy joy  
 O Sion ! an assembly such as earth  
 Saw never, such as heav'n stoops down to see.

Thus heav'n-ward all things tend. For all were once  
 Perfect, and all must be at length restored.  
 So God has greatly purposed; who would else  
 In his dishonoured works himself endure  
 Dishonor, and be wrong'd without redress.  
 Hasten then, and wheel away a shatter'd world  
 Ye slow-revolving seasons ! we would see,  
 (A sight to which our eyes are strangers yet)  
 A world that does not dread and hate his laws,  
 And suffer for its crime. Would learn how fair  
 The creature is that God pronounces good,  
 How pleasant in itself what pleases him.  
 Here ev'ry drop of honey hides a sting,  
 Worms wind themselves into our sweetest flow'rs,

And ev'n the joy that haply some poor heart  
 Derives from heav'n, pure as the fountain is  
 Is fullied in the stream ; taking a taint  
 From touch of human lips, at best impure.  
 Oh for a world in principle as chaste  
 As this is gross and selfish ! over which  
 Custom and prejudice shall bear no sway  
 That govern all things here, should'ring aside  
 The meek and modest truth, and forcing her  
 To seek a refuge from the tongue of strife  
 In nooks obscure, far from the ways of men.  
 Where violence shall never lift the sword,  
 Nor cunning justify the proud man's wrong,  
 Leaving the poor no remedy but tears.  
 Where he that fills an office, shall esteem  
 Th' occasion it presents of doing good  
 More than the perquisite. Where law shall speak  
 Seldom, and never but as wisdom prompts  
 And equity ; not jealous more to guard  
 A worthless form, than to decide aright.

Where



Where fashion shall not sanctify abuse,  
 Ner smooth good-breeding (supplemental grace)  
 With lean performance ape the work of love.

Come then, and added to thy many crowns  
 Receive yet one, the crown of all the earth,  
 Thou who alone art worthy ! it was thine  
 By antient covenant 'ere nature's birth,  
 And thou hast made it thine by purchase since,  
 And overpaid its value with thy blood.  
 Thy faints proclaim thee king ; and in their hearts  
 Thy title is engraven with a pen  
 Dipt in the fountain of eternal love.  
 Thy faints proclaim thee king ; and thy delay  
 Gives courage to their foes, who, could they see ...  
 The dawn of thy last advent long-desired,  
 Would creep into the bowels of the hills,  
 And flee for safety to the falling rocks.  
 The very spirit of the world is tired  
 Of its own taunting question ask'd so long;

“ Where is the promise of your Lord’s approach ?”  
 The infidel has shot his bolts away,  
 ‘Till his exhausted quiver yielding none,  
 He gleans the blunted shafts that have recoiled,  
 And aims them at the shield of truth again.  
 The veil is rent, rent too by priestly hands,  
 That hides divinity from mortal eyes,  
 And all the mysteries to faith proposed  
 Insulted and traduced, are cast aside  
 As useless, to the moles and to the bats.  
 They now are deem’d the faithful and are praised,  
 Who constant only in rejecting thee,  
 Deny thy Godhead with a martyr’s zeal,  
 And quit their office for their errors sake.  
 Blind and in love with darkness ! yet ev’n these  
 Worthy, compared with sycophants, who knee  
 Thy name, adoring, and then preach thee man.  
 So fares thy church. But how thy church may fare  
 The world takes little thought ; who will may preach,  
 And what they will. All pastors are alike

To wand'ring sheep, resolved to follow none.  
 Two gods divide them all, pleasure and gain.  
 For these they live, they sacrifice to these,  
 And in their service wage perpetual war  
 With conscience and with thee. Lust in their hearts,  
 And mischief in their hands, they roam the earth  
 To prey upon each other; stubborn, fierce,  
 High-minded, foaming out their own disgrace.  
 Thy prophets speak of such; and noting down  
 The features of the last degen'rate times,  
 Exhibit ev'ry lineament of these.  
 Come then, and added to thy many crowns  
 Receive yet one, as radiant as the rest,  
 Due to thy last and most effectual work,  
 Thy word fulfilled, the conquest of a world.

He is the happy man, whose life ev'n now  
 Shows somewhat of that happier life to come.  
 Who doomed to an obscure but tranquil state  
 Is pleased with it, and were he free to chuse,

Would make his fate his choice. Whom peace, the fruit  
 Of virtue, and whom virtue, fruit of faith,  
 Prepare for happiness; bespeak him one  
 Content indeed to sojourn while he must  
 Below the skies, but having there his home.  
 The world o'erlooks him in her busy search  
 Of objects more illustrious in her view ;  
 And occupied as earnestly as she  
 Though more sublimely, he o'erlooks the world.  
 She scorns his pleasures, for she knows them not ;  
 He seeks not hers, for he has proved them vain.  
 He cannot skim the ground like summer birds  
 Pursuing gilded flies, and such he deems  
 Her honors, her emoluments, her joys.  
 Therefore in contemplation is his bliss,  
 Whose pow'r is such, that whom she lifts from earth  
 She makes familiar with a heav'n unseen,  
 And shows him glories yet to be revealed.  
 Not slothful he, though seeming unemployed,  
 And censured oft as useless.    Stillest streams

Oft water fairest meadows, and the bird  
 That flutters least, is longest on the wing.  
 Ask him indeed, what trophies he has raised,  
 Or what achievements of immortal fame  
 He purposes, and he shall answer—none.  
 His warfare is within. There unfatigued  
 His fervent spirit labors. There he fights,  
 And there obtains fresh triumphs o'er himself,  
 And never-with'ring wreaths, compared with which  
 The laurels that a Cæsar reaps are weeds,  
 Perhaps the self-approving haughty world  
 That as she sweeps him with her whistling silks  
 Scarce deigns to notice him, or if she see  
 Deems him a cypher in the works of God,  
 Receives advantage from his noiseless hours  
 Of which she little dreams. Perhaps she owes  
 Her sunshine and her rain, her blooming spring  
 And plenteous harvest, to the pray'r he makes,  
 When Isaac like, the solitary faint  
 Walks forth to meditate at even-tide,

And think on her, who thinks not for herself,  
 Forgive him then, thou bustler in concerns  
 Of little worth, and idler in the best,  
 If author of no mischief and some good,  
 He seek his proper happiness by means  
 That may advance, but cannot hinder thine.  
 Nor though he tread the secret path of life,  
 Engage no notice, and enjoy much ease,  
 Account him an incumbrance on the state,  
 Receiving benefits, and rend'ring none.  
 His sphere though humble, if that humble sphere  
 Shine with his fair example, and though small  
 His influence, if that influence all be spent  
 In soothing sorrow and in quenching strife,  
 In aiding helpless indigence, in works  
 From which at least a grateful few derive  
 Some taste of comfort in a world of woe,  
 Then let the supercilious great confess  
 He serves his country; recompenses well  
 The state beneath the shadow of whose vine

He sits secure, and in the scale of life  
 Holds no ignoble, though a slighted place.  
 The man whose virtues are more felt than seen,  
 Must drop indeed the hope of public praise,  
 But he may boast what few that win it can,  
 That if his country stand not by his skill,  
 At least his follies have not wrought her fall.  
 Polite refinement offers him in vain  
 Her golden tube, through which a sensual world  
 Draws gross impurity, and likes it well,  
 The neat conveyance hiding all th' offence.  
 Not that he peevishly rejects a mode  
 Because that world adopts it. If it bear  
 The stamp and clear impression of good sense,  
 And be not costly more than of true worth,  
 He puts it on, and for decorum sake  
 Can wear it e'en as gracefully as she.  
 She judges of refinement by the eye,  
 He by the test of conscience, and a heart  
 Not soon deceived; aware that what is base

No polish can make sterling, and that vice  
 Though well perfumed and elegantly dress'd,  
 Like an unburied carcase trick'd with flow'rs  
 Is but a garnish'd nuisance, fitter far  
 For cleanly riddance than for fair attire.  
 So life glides smoothly and by stealth away,  
 More golden than that age of fabled gold  
 Renown'd in ancient song; not vex'd with care  
 Or stained with guilt, beneficent, approved  
 Of God and man, and peaceful in its end.  
 So glide my life away ! and so at last  
 My share of duties decently fulfilled,  
 May some disease, not tardy to perform  
 Its destin'd office, yet with gentle stroke,  
 Dismiss me weary to a safe retreat  
 Beneath the turf that I have often trod.  
 It shall not grieve me, then, that once when call'd  
 To dress a Sofa with the flow'rs of verse,  
 I play'd awhile, obedient to the fair  
 With that light task, but soon to please her more



Whom flow'rs alone I knew would little please,  
 Let fall th' unfinished wreath, and roved for fruit.  
 Roved far and gather'd much. Some harsh, 'tis true,  
 Pick'd from the thorns and briars of reproof,  
 But wholesome, well-digested. Grateful some  
 To palates that can taste immortal truth,  
 Insipid else, and fure to be despised.  
 But all is in his hand whose praise I seek.  
 In vain the poet sings, and the world hears,  
 If he regard not, though divine the theme.  
 'Tis not in artful measures, in the chime  
 And idle tinkling of a minstrel's lyre  
 To charm his ear, whose eye is on the heart.  
 Whose frown can disappoint the proudest strain,  
 Whose approbation—prosper even mine.

A N

E P I S T L E

T O

J O S E P H H I L L, E s q.

DEAR JOSEPH—five and twenty years ago—

Alas! how time escapes—'tis even so—

With frequent intercourse and always sweet

And always friendly, we were won't to cheat

A tedious hour—and now we never meet.

As some grave gentleman in Terence says,

('Twas therefore much the same in ancient days)

Good lack, we know not what to-morrow brings—

Strange fluctuation of all human things!

True: Changes will befall, and friends may part,

But distance only cannot change the heart:

And

And were I call'd to prove th' assertion true,  
One proof should serve, a reference to you.

Whence comes it then, that in the wane of life,  
Though nothing have occur'd to kindle strife,  
We find the friends we fancied we had won,  
Though num'rous once, reduced to few or none?  
Can gold grow worthless that has stood the touch?  
No: Gold they seem'd, but they were never such:  
Horatio's servant once, with bow and cringe  
Swinging the parlour door upon its hinge,  
Dreading a negative, and overawed  
Lest he should trespass, begg'd to go abroad:  
Go fellow!—whither?—turning short about—  
Nay: Stay at home;—you're always going out;  
'Tis but a step, sir, just at the street's end—  
For what?—An please you sir, to see a friend:  
A friend? Horatio cried, and seem'd to start—  
Yea marry shalt thou, and with all my heart—

And

And fetch my cloak, for though the night be raw  
I'll see him too—the first I ever saw.

I knew the man, and knew his nature mild,  
And was his play-thing often when a child,  
But somewhat at that moment pinch'd him close,  
Else he was seldom bitter or morose:

Perhaps his confidence just then betray'd,  
His grief might prompt him with the speech he made,  
Perhaps 'twas mere good-humour gave it birth,  
The harmless play of pleasantry and mirth.

Howe'er it was, his language in my mind  
Bespoke at least a man that knew mankind:

But not to moralize too much, and strain  
To prove an evil of which all complain,

(I hate long arguments, verbosely spun)

One story more, dear Hill, and I have done:

Once on a time, an Emp'ror, a wise man,

No matter where, in China or Japan,

Decreed that whosoever should offend

Against the well known duties of a friend,

Convicted

Convicted once, should ever after wear  
 But half a coat, and show his bosom bare.  
 The punishment importing this, no doubt,  
 That all was naught within, and all found out.  
 Oh happy Britain ! we have not to fear  
 Such hard and arbitrary measure here.  
 Else could a law like that which I relate,  
 Once have the sanction of our triple state,  
 Some few that I have known in days of old  
 Would run most dreadful risk of catching cold.  
 While you, my friend, whatever wind should blow,  
 Might traverse England safely to and fro,  
 An honest man, close-buttoned to the chin,  
 Broad-cloth without, and a warm heart within.

T I R O C I N I U M :

O R, A

R E V I E W O F S C H O O L S.

Κεφαλαιον δη παιδειας ορθη τροφη:

P L A T O.

Αρχη πολιτειας απασης, νεων τροφα.

D I O G. L A E R T.

U

T O T H E

REV. WILLIAM CAWTHORNE UNWIN,

RECTOR OF STOCK IN ESSEX,

21-72

THE TUTOR OF HIS TWO SONS,

T H E F O L L O W I N G

P O E M,

RECOMMENDING PRIVATE TUITION.

I N P R E F E R E N C E T O

AN EDUCATION AT SCHOOL,

I S I N S C R I B E D,

BY HIS AFFECTIONATE FRIEND,

*WILLIAM COWPER.*

*Olney, Nov. 6, 1784.*

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# T I R O C I N I U M.

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**I**T is not from his form in which we trace  
Strength joined with beauty, dignity with grace;  
That man, the master of this globe, derives  
His right of empire over all that lives.  
That form indeed, th' associate of a mind  
Vast in its pow'rs, ethereal in its kind,  
That form, the labour of almighty skill,  
Framed for the service of a free-born will,  
Asserts precedence, and bespeaks controul;  
But borrows all its grandeur from the soul.  
Hers is the state, the splendour and the throne;  
An intellectual kingdom, all her own.



For her, the mem'ry fills her ample page  
 With truths pour'd down from ev'ry distant age,  
 For her amasses an unbounded store,  
 The wisdom of great nations, now no more,  
 Though laden, not incumber'd with her spoil,  
 Laborious, yet unconscious of her toil,  
 When copiously supplied, then most enlarged,  
 Still to be fed, and not to be furcharged.  
 For her, the fancy roving unconfined,  
 The present muse of ev'ry pensive mind,  
 Works magic wonders, adds a brighter hue  
 To nature's scenes, than nature ever knew,  
 At her command, winds rise and waters roar,  
 Again she lays them slumb'ring on the shore,  
 With flow'r and fruit the wilderness supplies,  
 Or bids the rocks in ruder pomp arise.  
 For her, the judgment, umpire in the strife,  
 That grace and nature have to wage through life,  
 Quick-sighted arbiter of good and ill,  
 Appointed sage preceptor to the will,

Condemns,

Condemns, approves, and with a faithful voice  
Guides the decision of a doubtful choice.

Why did the fiat of a God give birth  
To yon fair sun and his attendant earth,  
And when descending he resigns the skies,  
Why takes the gent'ler moon her turn to rise,  
Whom ocean feels through all his countless waves,  
And owns her pow'r on ev'ry shore he laves ?  
Why do the seasons still enrich the year,  
Fruitful and young as in their first career ?  
Spring hangs her infant blossoms on the trees,  
Rock'd in the cradle of the western breeze,  
Summer in haste the thriving charge receives  
Beneath the shade of her expanded leaves,  
'Till autumn's fiercer heats and plenteous dews  
Dye them at last in all their glowing hues—  
'Twere wild profusion all, and bootless waste,  
Pow'r misemployed, munificence misplaced,

Had not its author dignified the plan,  
 And crowned it with the majesty of man.  
 Thus form'd, thus placed, intelligent, and taught  
 Look where he will, the wonders God has wrought  
 The wildest scorner of his Maker's laws  
 Finds in a sober moment time to pause,  
 To press th' important question on his heart,  
 "Why form'd at all, and wherefore as thou art?"  
 If man be what he seems, this hour a slave,  
 The next mere dust and ashes in the grave,  
 Endued with reason only to descry  
 His crimes and follies with an aching eye,  
 With passions, just that he may prove with pain  
 The force he spends against their fury, vain,  
 And if soon after having burnt by turns  
 With ev'ry lust with which frail nature burns,  
 His being end where death dissolves the bond,  
 The tomb take all, and all be blank beyond,  
 Then he, of all that nature has brought forth  
 Stands self-impeach'd the creature of least worth,

And

And uselefs while he lives, and when he dies;  
 Brings into doubt the wisdom of the skies.

Truths that the learn'd purfue with eager thought,  
 Are not important always as dear-bought,  
 Proving at laft, though told in pompous ftrains,  
 A childish wafte of philofophic pains;  
 But truths on which depends our main concern,  
 That 'tis our fhame and mis'ry not to learn,  
 Shine by the fide of ev'ry path we tread  
 With fuch a luftre, he that runs may read.  
 'Tis true, that if to trifle life away  
 Down to the fun-fet of their lateft day,  
 Then perish on futurity's wide fhore  
 Like fleeting exhalations, found no more,  
 Were all that heav'n required of human kind,  
 And all the plan their deftiny defigned,  
 What none could rev'rence all might juftly blame,  
 And man would breathe but for his Maker's fhame.

But

But reason heard, and nature well perused,  
 At once the dreaming mind is disabused.  
 If all we find possessing earth, sea, air,  
 Reflect his attributes who plac'd them there,  
 Fulfill the purpose, and appear design'd  
 Proofs of the wisdom of th' all-seeing mind,  
 'Tis plain, the creature whom he chose t' invest  
 With kingship and dominion o'er the rest,  
 Received his nobler nature, and was made  
 Fit for the power in which he stands array'd,  
 That first or last, hereafter if not here,  
 He too might make his author's wisdom clear,  
 Praise him on earth, or obstinately dumb  
 Suffer his justice in a world to come.  
 This once believed, 'twere logic misapplied  
 To prove a consequence by none denied,  
 That we are bound to cast the minds of youth  
 Betimes into the mould of heav'nly truth,  
 That taught of God they may indeed be wise,  
 Nor ignorantly wand'ring miss the skies.

In early days the conscience has in most  
 A quickness, which in later life is lost,  
 Preserved from guilt by salutary fears,  
 Or, guilty, soon relenting into tears.  
 Too careless often as our years proceed,  
 What friends we fort with, or what books we read,  
 Our parents yet exert a prudent care  
 To feed our infant minds with proper fare,  
 And wisely store the nurs'ry by degrees  
 With wholesome learning, yet acquired with ease.  
 Neatly secured from being foiled or torn  
 Beneath a pane of thin translucent horn,  
 A book (to please us at a tender age  
 'Tis call'd a book, though but a single page)  
 Presents the pray'r the Saviour deign'd to teach,  
 Which children use, and parsons—when they preach,  
 Lispering our syllables, we scramble next,  
 Through moral narrative, or sacred text,  
 And learn with wonder how this world began,  
 Who made, who marr'd, and who has ransom'd man.

Points,

Points, which unless the Scripture made them plain,  
The wisest heads might agitate in vain.

Oh thou, whom borne on fancy's eager wing  
Back to the season of life's happy spring,  
I pleased remember, and while mem'ry yet  
Holds fast her office here, can ne'er forget,  
Ingenious dreamer, in whose well told-tale  
Sweet fiction and sweet truth alike prevail,  
Whose hum'rous vein, strong sense, and simple stile;  
May teach the gayest, make the gravest smile,  
Witty, and well-employ'd, and like thy Lord,  
Speaking in parables his slighted word,  
I name thee not, lest so despised a name  
Should move a sneer at thy deserved fame,  
Yet ev'n in transitory life's late day  
That mingles all my brown with sober gray,  
Revere the man, whose *Pilgrim* marks the road  
And guides the *Progress* of the soul to God.  
'Twere well with most, if books that could engage  
Their childhood, pleased them at a riper age;

The man approving what had charm'd the boy,  
 Would die at last in comfort, peace, and joy,  
 And not with curses on his art who stole  
 The gem of truth from his unguarded soul.  
 The stamp of artless piety impress'd  
 By kind tuition on his yielding breast,  
 The youth now bearded, and yet pert and raw,  
 Regards with scorn, though once received with awe,  
 And warp'd into the labyrinth of lies  
 That babblers, called philosophers, devise,  
 Blasphemes his creed as founded on a plan  
 Replete with dreams, unworthy of a man.  
 Touch but his nature in its ailing part,  
 Assert the native evil of his heart,  
 His pride resents the charge, although the proof \*  
 Rise in his forehead, and seem rank enough;  
 Point to the cure, describe a Saviour's cross  
 As God's expedient to retrieve his loss,

The

\* See Chron. Ch. 26. v. 19.



The young apostate sickens at the view,  
And hates it with the malice of a Jew.

How weak the barrier of mere nature proves  
Oppos'd against the pleasures nature loves !  
While self-betray'd, and wilfully undone,  
She longs to yield, no sooner wooed than won.  
Try now the merits of this blest exchange  
Of modest truth for wits eccentric range.  
'Time was, he clos'd as he began the day  
With decent duty, not ashamed to pray,  
The practice was a bond upon his heart,  
A pledge he gave for a consistent part,  
Nor could he dare presumptuously displease  
A pow'r confess'd so lately on his knees.  
But now, farewell all legendary tales,  
The shadows fly, philosophy prevails,  
Pray'r to the winds and caution to the waves,  
Religion makes the free by nature slaves,

Priests

Priests have invented, and the world admired  
 What knavish priests promulgate as inspired,  
 'Till reason, now no longer overawed,  
 Resumes her pow'rs, and spurns the clumsy fraud,  
 And common-sense diffusing real day,  
 The meteor of the gospel dies away. .  
 Such rhapsodies our shrew'd discerning youth  
 Learn from expert enquirers after truth,  
 Whose only care, might truth presume to speak,  
 Is not to find what they profess to seek.  
 And thus well-tutor'd only while we share  
 A mother's lectures and a nurse's care,  
 And taught at schools much mythologic stuff, \*  
 But found religion sparingly enough,

Our

\* The author begs leave to explain, sensible that without such knowledge, neither the ancient poets nor historians can be tasted or indeed understood, he does not mean to censure the pains that are taken to instruct a school-boy in the religion of the heathen, but merely that neglect of christian culture which leaves him shamefully ignorant of his own.

Our early notices of truth disgraced  
 Soon lose their credit, and are all effaced.

Would you your son should be a sot or dunce,  
 Lascivious, headstrong, or all these at once,  
 That in good time, the stripling's finish'd taste  
 For loose expence and fashionable waste,  
 Should prove your ruin, and his own at last,  
 Train him in public with a mob of boys,  
 Childish in mischief only and in noise,  
 Else of a mannish growth, and five in ten  
 In infidelity and lewdness, men.

There shall he learn 'ere sixteen winter's old,  
 That authors are most useful, pawn'd or sold,  
 That pedantry is all that schools impart,  
 But taverns teach the knowledge of the heart,  
 There waiter Dick with Bacchanalian lays  
 Shall win his heart and have his drunken praise,  
 His counsellor and bosom-friend shall prove,  
 And some street-pacing harlot his first love.

And

Schools, unless discipline where doubly strong,  
 Detain their adolescent charge too long.  
 The management of Tiro's of eighteen  
 Is difficult, their punishment obscene.  
 The stout tall Captain, whose superior size  
 The minor heroes view with envious eyes,  
 Becomes their pattern, upon whom they fix  
 Their whole attention, and ape all his tricks.  
 His pride that scorns t' obey or to submit,  
 With them is courage, his effront'ry wit.  
 His wild excursions, window-breaking feats,  
 Robb'ry of gardens, quarrels in the streets,  
 His hair-breadth 'scapes, and all his daring schemes,  
 Transport them, and are made their fav'rite themes.  
 In little bosoms such achievements strike  
 A kindred spark, they burn to do the like.  
 Thus half accomplish'd, 'ere he yet begin  
 To show the peeping down upon his chin,  
 And as maturity of years comes on  
 Made just th' adept that you design'd your son,

T' insure the perseverance of his course,  
 And give your monstrous project all its force,  
 Send him to college. If he there be tamed,  
 Or in one article of vice reclaimed,  
 Where no regard of ord'nances is shown  
 Or look'd for now, the fault must be his own.  
 Some sneaking virtue lurks in him no doubt,  
 Where neither strumpets charms nor drinking-bout,  
 Nor gambling practices can find it out. }  
 Such youths of spirit, and that spirit too  
 Ye nurs'ries of our boys, we owe to you.  
 Though from ourselves the mischief more proceeds,  
 For public schools 'tis public folly feeds.  
 The slaves of custom and establish'd mode,  
 With pack-horse constancy we keep the road  
 Crooked or strait, through quags or thorny dells,  
 True to the jingling of our leaders bells.  
 To follow foolish precedents, and wink  
 With both our eyes, is easier than to think,

And

And such an age as ours baulks no expence,  
 Except of caution and of common-sense,  
 Else sure, notorious fact and proof so plain  
 Would turn our steps into a wiser train.  
 I blame not those who with what care they can  
 O'erwatch the num'rous and unruly clan,  
 Or if I blame, 'tis only that they dare  
 Promise a work of which they must despair.  
 Have ye, ye sage intendants of the whole,  
 An ubiquarian presence and controul,  
 Elisha's eye, that when Gehazi stray'd  
 Went with him, and saw all the game he play'd ?  
 Yes—ye are conscious ; and on all the shelves  
 Your pupils strike upon, have struck yourselves.  
 Or if by nature sober, ye had then  
 Boys as ye were, the gravity of men,  
 Ye knew at least, by constant proofs address'd  
 To ears and eyes, the vices of the rest.  
 But ye connive at what ye cannot cure,  
 And evils not to be endured, endure,

Lost pow'r exerted, but without success,  
 Should make the little ye retain still less.  
 Ye once were justly famed for bringing forth  
 Undoubted scholarship and genuine worth,  
 And in the firmament of fame still shines  
 A glory bright as that of all the signs  
 Of poets raised by you, and statesmen and divines. }  
 Peace to them all, those brilliant times are fled,  
 And no such lights are kindling in their stead.  
 Our striplings shine indeed, but with such rays  
 As set the midnight riot in a blaze,  
 And seem, if judged by their expressive looks,  
 Deeper in none than in their surgeons books.

Say muse (for education made the song,  
 No muse can hesitate or linger long)  
 What causes move us, knowing as we must  
 That these *Menageries* all fail their trust,  
 To send our sons to scout and scamper there,  
 While colts and puppies cost us so much care?

Be it a weakness, it deserves some praise,  
 We love the play-place of our early days.  
 The scene is touching, and the heart is stone  
 That feels not at that sight, and feels at none.  
 The wall on which we tried our graving skill,  
 The very name we carved subsisting still,  
 The bench on which we sat while deep-employ'd  
 Though mangled, hack'd and hew'd, not yet destroy'd,  
 The little ones unbutton'd, glowing hot,  
 Playing our games, and on the very spot,  
 As happy as we once, to kneel and draw  
 The chalky ring, and knuckle down at taw,  
 To pitch the ball into the grounded hat,  
 Or drive it devious with a dex'trous pat,  
 The pleasing spectacle at once excites  
 Such recollection of our own delights,  
 That viewing it, we seem almost t' obtain  
 Our innocent sweet simple years again.  
 This fond attachment to the well-known place  
 Whence first we started into life's long race,



Maintains its hold with such unfailing sway,  
 We feel it ev'n in age, and at our latest day.  
 Hark ! how the sire of chits whose future share  
 Of classic food begins to be his care,  
 With his own likenefs placed on either knee,  
 Indulges all a father's heart-felt glee,  
 And tells them as he strokes their silver locks,  
 That they must soon learn Latin and to box ;  
 Then turning, he regales his list'ning wife  
 With all th' adventures of his early life,  
 His skill in coachmanship or driving chaise,  
 In bilking tavern bills and spouting plays,  
 What shifts he used detected in a scrape,  
 How he was flogg'd, or had the luck t' escape,  
 What fums he lost at play, and how he sold  
 Watch, seals, and all, 'till all his pranks are told.  
 Retracing thus his *frolics* ('tis a name  
 That palliates deeds of folly and of shame)  
 He gives the local bias all its sway,  
 Resolves that where he play'd his sons shall play,

And

And destines their bright genius to be shown  
 Just in the scene where he display'd his own.  
 The meek and bashful boy will soon be taught  
 To be as bold and forward as he ought,  
 The rude will scuffle through with ease enough,  
 Great schools suit best the sturdy and the rough.  
 Ah happy designation, prudent choice,  
 Th' event is sure, expect it and rejoice !  
 Soon see your wish fulfilled in either child,  
 The pert made perter, and the tame made wild.

The great indeed, by titles, riches, birth,  
 Excused th' incumbrance of more solid worth,  
 Are best disposed of, where with most success  
 They may acquire that confident address,  
 Those habits of profuse and lew'd expence,  
 That scorn of all delights but those of sense,  
 Which though in plain plebeians we condemn,  
 With so much reason all expect from them.

But families of less illustrious fame,  
 Whose chief distinction is their spotless name,  
 Whose heirs, their honours none, their income small,  
 Must shine by true desert, or not at all,  
 What dream they of, that with so little care  
 They risk their hopes, their dearest treasure there?  
 They dream of little Charles or William graced  
 With wig prolix, down-flowing to his waist,  
 They see th' attentive crowds his talents draw,  
 They hear him speak—the oracle of law.  
 The father who designs his babe a priest,  
 Dreams him episcopally such at least,  
 And while the playful jockey scow'rs the room  
 Briskly, astride upon the parlour broom,  
 In fancy sees him more superbly ride  
 In coach with purple lined, and mitres on its side.  
 Events improbable and strange as these,  
 Which only a parental eye foresees,  
 A public school shall bring to pass with ease.

But

But how? resides such virtue in that air  
 As must create an appetite for pray'r?  
 And will it breathe into him all the zeal  
 That candidates for such a prize should feel,  
 To take the lead and be the foremost still  
 In all true worth and literary skill?

“ Ah blind to bright futurity, untaught

“ The knowledge of the world, and dull of thought;

“ Church-ladders are not always mounted best

“ By learned Clerks and Latinists profess'd.

“ Th' exalted prize demands an upward look,

“ Not to be found by poring on a book.

“ Small skill in Latin, and still less in Greek,

“ Is more than adequate to all I seek,

“ Let erudition grace him or not grace,

“ I give the bawble but the second place,

“ His wealth, fame, honors, all that I intend,

“ Subsist and center in one point—a friend.

“ A friend, whate'er he studies or neglects,

“ Shall give him consequence, heal all defects,

His

“ His intercourse with peers, and sons of peers—  
 “ There dawns the splendour of his future years,  
 “ In that bright quarter his propitious skies  
 “ Shall blush betimes, and there his glory rise.  
 “ *Your Lordship and your Grace*, what school can teach  
 “ A rhet’ric equal to those parts of speech ?  
 “ What need of Homer’s verse or Tully’s prose,  
 “ Sweet interjections ! if he learn but those ?  
 “ Let rev’rend churls his ignorance rebuke,  
 “ Who starve upon a dogs-ear’d Pentateuch,  
 “ The parson knows enough who knows a Duke.”— }

Egregious purpose ! worthily begun  
 In barb’rous prostitution of your son,  
 Pressed on *his* part by means that would disgrace  
 A scriv’ners clerk or footman out of place,  
 And ending, if at last its end be gained,  
 In sacrilege, in God’s own house profaned.  
 It may succeed ; and if his sins should call  
 For more than common punishment, it shall.

The

The wretch shall rise, and be the thing on earth  
 Least qualified in honor, learning, worth,  
 To occupy a sacred, awful post,  
 In which the best and worthiest tremble most.  
 The *royal letters*, are a thing of course,  
 A king that would, might recommend his horse,  
 And Deans no doubt and Chapters, with one voice  
 As bound in duty, would confirm the choice.  
 Behold your Bishop! well he plays his part,  
 Christian in name, and Infidel in heart,  
 Ghostly in office, earthly in his plan,  
 A slave at court, elsewhere a lady's man,  
 Dumb as a senator, and as a priest  
 A piece of mere church-furniture at best;  
 To live estranged from God his total scope,  
 And his end sure, without one glimpse of hope.  
 But fair although and feasible it seem,  
 Depend not much upon your golden dream;  
 For Providence that seems concern'd t' exempt  
 The hallow'd bench from absolute contempt,

In spite of all the wrigglers into place,  
 Still keeps a feat or two for worth and grace,  
 And therefore 'tis, that, though the fight be rare,  
 We sometimes see a Lowth or Bagot there.  
 Besides, school-friendships are not always found,  
 Though fair in promise, permanent and found.  
 The most disint'rested and virtuous minds  
 In early years connected, time unbinds.  
 New situations give a different cast  
 Of habit, inclination, temper, taste,  
 And he that seem'd our counterpart at first,  
 Soon shows the strong similitude revers'd.  
 Young heads are giddy, and young hearts are warm,  
 And make mistakes for manhood to reform.  
 Boys are at best but pretty buds unblown,  
 Whose scent and hues are rather guess'd than known.  
 Each dreams that each is just what he appears,  
 But learns his error in maturer years,  
 When disposition like a sail unfurl'd  
 Shows all its rents and patches to the world.

If therefore, ev'n when honest in design,  
 A boyish friendship may so soon decline,  
 'Twere wiser sure t' inspire a little heart  
 With just abhorrence of so mean a part,  
 Than set your son to work at a vile trade  
 For wages so unlikely to be paid.

Our public hives of puerile resort  
 That are of chief and most approved report,  
 To such base hopes in many a fordid soul  
 Owe their repute in part, but not the whole.  
 A principle, whose proud pretensions pass  
 Unquestioned, though the jewel be but glass,  
 That with a world not often over-nice  
 Ranks as a virtue, and is yet a vice,  
 Or rather a gross compound, justly tried,  
 Of envy, hatred, jealousy, and pride,  
 Contributes most perhaps t' enhance their fame,  
 And Emulation is its specious name.



Boys once on fire with that contentious zeal  
 Feel all the rage that female rivals feel,  
 The prize of beauty in a woman's eyes  
 Not brighter than in theirs the scholar's prize.  
 The spirit of that competition burns  
 With all varieties of ill by turns,  
 Each vainly magnifies his own success,  
 Resents his fellows, wishes it were less,  
 Exults in his miscarriage if he fail,  
 Deems his reward too great if he prevail,  
 And labors to surpass him day and night,  
 Less for improvement, than to tickle spite.  
 The spur is pow'ful, and I grant its force,  
 It pricks the genius forward in its course,  
 Allows short time for play, and none for sloth,  
 And felt alike by each, advances both,  
 But judge where so much evil intervenes,  
 The end, though plausible, not worth the means.  
 Weigh, for a moment, classical desert:  
 Against an heart depraved and temper hurt,

Hurt too perhaps for life, for early wrong  
 Done to the nobler part, affects it long,  
 And you are staunch indeed in learning's cause,  
 If you can crown a discipline that draws  
 Such mischiefs after it, with much applause.

Connection form'd for int'rest, and endear'd  
 By selfish views, thus censur'd and cashier'd,  
 And emulation, as engend'ring hate,  
 Doom'd to a no less ignominious fate,  
 The props of such proud seminaries fall,  
 The JACHIN and the BOAZ of them all.  
 Great schools rejected then, as those that swell  
 Beyond a size that can be managed well,  
 Shall royal institutions miss the bays,  
 And small academies win all the praise?  
 Force not my drift beyond its just intent,  
 I praise a school as Pope a government;  
 So take my judgment in his language dress'd,  
 "Whate'er is best administer'd, is best."

Few boys are born with talents that excel,  
But all are capable of living well.

Then ask not, whether limited or large,  
But, watch they strictly, or neglect their charge?  
If anxious only that their boys may *learn*,  
While *Morals* languish, a despised concern,  
The great and small deserve one common blame,  
Different in size, but in effect the same.

Much zeal in virtue's cause all teachers boast,  
Though motives of mere lucre sway the most.  
Therefore in towns and cities they abound,  
For there, the game they seek is easiest found,  
Though there, in spite of all that care can do,  
Traps to catch youth are most abundant too.  
If shrew'd, and of a well-constructed brain,  
Keen in pursuit, and vig'rous to retain,  
Your son come forth a prodigy of skill,  
As wheresoever taught, so form'd, he will,  
The pædagogues, with self-complacent air,  
Claims more than half the praise as his due share;

But

But if with all his genius he betray,  
 Not more intelligent, than loose and gay,  
 Such vicious habits as disgrace his name,  
 Threaten his health, his fortune, and his fame,  
 Though want of due restraint alone have bred  
 The symptoms that you see with so much dread,  
 Unenvied there, he may sustain alone  
 The whole reproach, the fault was all his own.

Oh 'tis a sight to be with joy perused  
 By all whom sentiment has not abused,  
 New-fangled sentiment, the boasted grace  
 Of those who never feel in the right place,  
 A sight surpassed by none that we can show,  
 Though Vestris on one leg still shine below,  
 A father blest with an ingenuous son,  
 Father and friend and tutour all in one.  
 How? turn again to tales long since forgot,  
 Æsop and Phædrus and the rest?—why not?

He will not blush that has a father's heart,  
 To take in childish plays a childish part,  
 But bends his sturdy back to any toy  
 That youth takes pleasure in, to please his boy ;  
 Then why resign into a stranger's hand  
 A task as much within your own command,  
 That God and nature and your int'rest too  
 Seem with one voice to delegate to you ?  
 Why hire a lodging in a house unknown  
 For one whose tend'rest thoughts all hover round your  
     own ?

This second weaning, needless as it is,  
 How does it lacerate both your heart and his !  
 Th' indented stick that loses day by day  
 Notch after notch, 'till all are smooth'd away,  
 Bears witness long 'ere his dismissal come,  
 With what intense desire he wants his home.  
 But though the joys he hopes beneath your roof  
 Bid fair enough to answer in the proof

Harmless

Harmless and safe and nat'ral as they are,  
 A disappointment waits him even there :  
 Arrived, he feels an unexpected change,  
 He blushes, hangs his head, is shy and strange,  
 No longer takes, as once, with fearless ease  
 His fav'rite stand between his father's knees,  
 But seeks the corner of some distant seat,  
 And eyes the door, and watches a retreat,  
 And least familiar where he should be most,  
 Feels all his happiest privileges lost.  
 Alas poor boy !—the natural effect  
 Of love by absence chilled into respect.  
 Say, what accomplishments at school acquired  
 Brings he to sweeten fruits so undesired ?  
 Thou well deserv'st an alienated son,  
 Unless thy conscious heart acknowledge—none.  
 None that in thy domestic snug recess,  
 He had not made his own with more address,  
 Though some perhaps that shock thy feeling mind,  
 And better never learn'd, or left behind.

Add too, that thus estranged thou can't obtain  
 By no kind arts his confidence again,  
 That here begins with most that long complaint  
 Of filial frankness lost, and love grown faint,  
 Which, oft neglected in life's waning years,  
 A parent pours into regardless ears.

Like caterpillars dangling under trees  
 By slender threads, and swinging in the breeze,  
 Which filthily bewray and fore disgrace  
 The boughs in which are bred th' unseemly race,  
 While ev'ry worm industriously weaves  
 And winds his web about the rivell'd leaves ;  
 So num'rous are the follies that annoy  
 The mind and heart of ev'ry sprightly boy,  
 Imaginations noxious and perverse,  
 Which admonition can alone disperse.  
 Th' encroaching nuisance asks a faithful hand,  
 Patient, affectionate, of high command,

To check the procreation of a breed  
 Sure to exhaust the plant on which they feed.  
 'Tis not enough that Greek or Roman page  
 At stated hours his freakish thoughts engage,  
 Ev'n in his pastimes he requires a friend  
 To warn, and teach him safely to unbend,  
 O'er all his pleasures gently to preside,  
 Watch his emotions and controul their tide,  
 And levying thus, and with an easy sway,  
 A tax of profit from his very play,  
 T' impress a value not to be eras'd  
 On moments squander'd else, and running all to waste,  
 And seems it nothing in a father's eye  
 That unimproved those many moments fly?  
 And is he well content, his son should find  
 No nourishment to feed his growing mind  
 But conjugated verbs, and nouns declined?  
 For such is all the mental food purvey'd  
 By public hacknies in the schooling trade,



Who feed a pupils intellect with store  
 Of syntax truly, but with little more,  
 Dismiss their cares when they dismiss their flock,  
 Machines themselves, and govern'd by a clock.  
 Perhaps a father blest with any brains  
 Would deem it no abuse or waste of pains,  
 T' improve this diet at no great expence,  
 With fav'ry truth and wholesome common sense,  
 To lead his son for prospects of delight  
 To some not steep, though philosophic height,  
 Thence to exhibit to his wondering eyes  
 Yon circling worlds, their distance, and their size,  
 The moons of Jove and Saturn's belted ball,  
 And the harmonious order of them all ;  
 To show him in an insect or a flow'r,  
 Such microscopic proofs of skill and pow'r,  
 As hid from ages pass'd, God now displays  
 To combat Atheists with in modern days ;  
 To spread the earth before him, and commend  
 With designation of the fingers end

Its various parts to his attentive note,  
 Thus bringing home to him the most remote ;  
 To teach his heart to glow with gen'rous flame  
 Caught from the deeds of men of ancient fame,  
 And more than all, with commendation due  
 To set some living worthy in his view,  
 Whose fair example may at once inspire  
 A wish to copy what he must admire.  
 Such knowledge gained betimes, and which appears  
 Though solid, not too weighty for his years,  
 Sweet in itself, and not forbidding sport,  
 When health demands it, of athletic fort,  
 Would make him what some lovely boys have been,  
 And more than one perhaps that I have seen,  
 An evidence and reprehension both  
 Of the mere school-boy's lean and tardy growth.

Art thou a man professionally tied,  
 With all thy faculties elsewhere applied,

Too busy to intend a meaner care  
 Than how to enrich thyself, and next, thine heir;  
 Or art thou (as though rich, perhaps thou art)  
 But poor in knowledge, having none to impart—  
 Behold that figure, neat, though plainly clad,  
 His sprightly mingled with a shade of sad,  
 Not of a nimble tongue, though now and then  
 Heard to articulate like other men,  
 No jester, and yet lively in discourse,  
 His phrase well chosen, clear, and full of force,  
 And his address, if not quite French in ease,  
 Not English stiff, but frank and formed to please,  
 Low in the world because he scorns its arts,  
 A man of letters, manners, morals, parts,  
 Unpatronized, and therefore little known,  
 Wise for himself and his few friends alone,  
 In him, thy well appointed proxy see,  
 Armed for a work too difficult for thee,  
 Prepared by taste, by learning, and true worth,  
 To form thy son, to strike his genius forth,

Beneath

Beneath thy roof, beneath thine eye to prove  
 The force of discipline when back'd by love,  
 To double all thy pleasure in thy child,  
 His mind informed, his morals undefiled.  
 Safe under such a wing, the boy shall show  
 No spots contracted among grooms below,  
 Nor taint his speech with meannesses design'd  
 By footman Tom for witty and refin'd.  
 There—in his commerce with the liveried herd  
 Lurks the contagion chiefly to be fear'd.  
 For since (so fashion dictates) all who claim  
 An higher than a mere plebeian fame,  
 Find it expedient, come what mischief may,  
 To entertain a thief or two in pay,  
 And they that can afford th' expence of more,  
 Some half a dozen, and some half a score,  
 Great cause occurs to save him from a band  
 So sure to spoil him, and so near at hand,  
 A point secured, if once he be supplied  
 With some such Mentor always at his side.

Are such men rare ? perhaps they would abound  
 Were occupation easier to be found,  
 Were education, else so sure to fail,  
 Conducted on a manageable scale,  
 And schools that have outlived all just esteem,  
 Exchang'd for the secure domestic scheme.  
 But having found him, be thou duke or earl,  
 Show thou hast sense enough to prize the pearl,  
 And as thou would'st th' advancement of thine heir  
 In all good faculties beneath his care,  
 Respect, as is but rational and just,  
 A man deem'd worthy of so dear a trust.  
 Despised by thee, what more can he expect  
 From youthful folly, than the same neglect ?  
 A flat and fatal negative obtains  
 That instant, upon all his future pains ;  
 His lessons tire, his mild rebukes offend,  
 And all the instructions of thy son's best friend  
 Are a stream choak'd, or trickling to no end.

Doom

Doom him not then to solitary meals,  
 But recollect that he has sense, and feels,  
 And, that possessor of a soul refin'd,  
 An upright heart and cultivated mind,  
 His post not mean, his talents not unknown,  
 He deems it hard to vegetate alone.  
 And if admitted at thy board he sit,  
 Account him no just mark for idle wit,  
 Offend not him whom modesty restrains  
 From repartee, with jokes that he disdains,  
 Much less transfix his feelings with an oath,  
 Nor frown, unless he vanish with the cloth.—  
 And trust me, his utility may reach  
 To more than he is hired or bound to teach,  
 Much trash unutter'd and some ills undone,  
 Through rev'rence of the censor of thy son,

But if thy table be indeed unclean,  
 Foul with excess, and with discourse obscene,

And

And thou a wretch, whom, following her old plan  
 The world accounts an honourable man,  
 Because forsooth thy courage has been tried  
 And stood the test, perhaps on the wrong side,  
 Though thou hadst never grace enough to prove  
 That any thing but vice could win thy love;  
 Or hast thou a polite, card-playing wife,  
 Chained to the routs that she frequents, for life,  
 Who, just when industry begins to snore,  
 Flies, wing'd with joy, to some coach-crouded door,  
 And thrice in ev'ry winter throngs thine own  
 With half the chariots and sedans in town,  
 Thyself meanwhile e'en shifting as thou may'st,  
 Not very sober though, nor very chaste;  
 Or is thine house, though less superb thy rank,  
 If not a scene of pleasure, a mere blank,  
 And thou at best, and in thy sob'rest mood,  
 A trifle, vain, and empty of all good?  
 Though mercy for thyself thou can'st have none,  
 Hear nature plead, show mercy to thy son.

Saved from his home, where ev'ry day brings forth  
 Some mischief fatal to his future worth,  
 Find him a better in a distant spot,  
 Within some pious pastor's humble cot,  
 Where vile example (your's I chiefly mean,  
 The most seducing and the oft'nest seen)  
 May never more be stamp'd upon his breast  
 Not yet perhaps incurably impress'd.  
 Where early rest makes early rising sure,  
 Disease or comes not, or finds easy cure,  
 Prevented much by diet neat and plain,  
 Or if it enter, soon starved out again.  
 Where all th' attention of his faithful host  
 Discreetly limited to two at most,  
 May raise such fruits as shall reward his care,  
 And not at last evaporate in air.  
 Where stillness aiding study, and his mind  
 Serene, and to his duties much inclined,  
 Not occupied in day-dreams, as at home,  
 Of pleasures past or follies yet to come,



His virtuous toil may terminate at last  
 In settled habit and decided taste.  
 But whom do I advise ? the fashion-led,  
 Th' incorrigibly wrong, the deaf, the dead,  
 Whom care and cool deliberation suit  
 Not better much, than spectacles a brute,  
 Who if their sons some slight tuition share,  
 Deem it of no great moment, whose, or where,  
 Too proud t' adopt the thoughts of one unknown,  
 And much too gay t' have any of their own.  
 But courage man ! methought the muse replied,  
 Mankind are various, and the world is wide ;  
 The ostrich, silliest of the feather'd kind,  
 And form'd of God without a parent's mind,  
 Commits her eggs, incautious, to the dust,  
 Forgetful that the foot may crush the trust ;  
 And while on public nurf'ries they rely,  
 Not knowing, and too oft not caring why,  
 Irrational in what they thus prefer,  
 No few, that would seem wise, resemble her.

But

But all are not alike. Thy warning voice  
 May here and there prevent erroneous choice,  
 And some perhaps, who, busy as they are,  
 Yet make their progeny their dearest care,  
 Whose hearts will ache once told what ills may reach  
 Their offspring left upon so wild a beach,  
 Will need no stress of argument t' enforce  
 Th' expedience of a less advent'rous course.  
 The rest will slight thy counsel, or condemn,  
 But *they* have human feelings. Turn to *them*.

To you then, tenants of life's middle state,  
 Securely placed between the small and great,  
 Whose character, yet undebauch'd, retains  
 Two thirds of all the virtue that remains,  
 Who wise yourselves, desire your sons should learn  
 Your wisdom and your ways—to you I turn.  
 Look round you on a world perversely blind,  
 See what contempt is fall'n on human kind,

See

See wealth abused, and dignities misplac'd,  
 Great titles, offices, and trusts disgrac'd,  
 Long lines of ancestry renown'd of old,  
 Their noble qualities all quench'd and cold,  
 See Bedlam's closetted and hand-cuff'd charge  
 Surpass'd in frenzy by the mad at large,  
 See great commanders making war a trade,  
 Great lawyers, lawyers without study made,  
 Churchmen, in whose esteem their blest employ  
 Is odious, and their wages all their joy,  
 Who far enough from furnishing their shelves  
 With gospel lore, turn infidels themselves,  
 See womanhood despis'd, and manhood shamed  
 With infamy too nauseous to be named,  
 Fops at all corners lady-like in mien,  
 Civetted fellows, smelt 'ere they are seen,  
 Elie coarse and rude in manners, and their tongue  
 On fire with curses and with nonsense hung,  
 Now flush'd with drunk'ness, now with whoredom pale,  
 Their breath a sample of last night's regale,

See

See volunteers in all the vilest arts  
 Men well endowed, of honourable parts,  
 Design'd by nature wise, but self-made fools ;  
 All these, and more like these, were bred at schools.  
 And if it chance, as sometimes chance it will,  
 That though school-bred, the boy be virtuous still,  
 Such rare exceptions shining in the dark,  
 Prove rather than impeach the just remark,  
 As here and there a twinkling star descried  
 Serves but to show how black is all beside.  
 Now look on him whose very voice in tone  
 Just echos thine, whose features are thine own,  
 And stroke his polish'd cheek of purest red,  
 And lay thine hand upon his flaxen head,  
 And say, my boy, th' unwelcome hour is come,  
 When thou, transplanted from thy genial home  
 Must find a colder soil and bleaker air,  
 And trust for safety to a stranger's care ;  
 What character, what turn thou wilt assume  
 From constant converse with I know not whom,

Who there will court thy friendship, with what views,  
 And, artless as thou art, whom thou wilt chuse,  
 Though much depends on what thy choice shall be,  
 Is all chance-medley and unknown to me.

Can'st thou, the tear just trembling on thy lids,  
 And while the dreadful risque foreseen, forbids,  
 Free too, and under no constraining force,  
 Unless the sway of custom warp thy course,  
 Lay such a stake upon the losing side,  
 Merely to gratify so blind a guide ?

Thou can'st not : Nature pulling at thine heart  
 Condemns th' unfatherly, th' imprudent part.

Thou would'st not, deaf to Nature's tend'rest plea,  
 Turn him adrift upon a rolling sea,

Nor say, *go thither*, conscious that there lay  
 A brood of asps, or quicksands in his way,  
 Then only govern'd by the self-same rule  
 Of nat'ral pity, send him not to school.

No—Guard him better ; Is he not thine own,  
 Thyself in miniature, thy flesh, thy bone ?

And

And hopest thou not ('tis ev'ry father's hope)  
 That since thy strength must with thy years elope;  
 And thou wilt need some comfort to assuage  
 Health's last farewell, a staff of thine old age;  
 That then, in recompense of all thy cares,  
 Thy child shall show respect to thy grey hairs,  
 Befriend thee of all other friends bereft,  
 And give thy life its only cordial left?  
 Aware then how much danger intervenes,  
 To compass that good end, forecast the means.  
 His heart, now passive, yields to thy command;  
 Secure it thine. Its key is in thine hand.  
 If thou desert thy charge and throw it wide;  
 Nor heed what guests there enter and abide,  
 Complain not if attachments lewd and base  
 Supplant thee in it; and usurp thy place.  
 But if thou guard its sacred chambers sure  
 From vicious inmates and delights impure;  
 Either his gratitude shall hold him fast,  
 And keep him warm and filial to the last,

Or if he prove unkind, (as who can say  
 But being man, and therefore frail, he may)  
 One comfort yet shall cheer thine aged heart,  
 Howe'er he slight thee, thou hast done thy part.

Oh barb'rous ! would'st thou with a Gothic hand  
 Pull down the schools—what !—all the schools i' th' land ?  
 Or throw them up to liv'ry-nags and grooms,  
 Or turn them into shops and auction-rooms ?  
 A' captious question, sir, and your's is one,  
 Deserves an answer similar, or none.  
 Would'st thou, possessor of a flock, employ  
 (Apprized that he is such) a careless boy,  
 And feed him well and give him handsome pay,  
 Merely to sleep, and let them run astray ?  
 Survey our schools and colleges, and see  
 A sight not much unlike my simile.  
 From education, as the leading cause,  
 The public character its colour draws,

Thence

Thence the prevailing manners take their cast,  
 Extravagant or sober, loose or chaste.  
 And though I would not advertize them yet,  
 Nor write on each—*This Building to be Lett,*  
 Unless the world were all prepared to embrace  
 A plan well-worthy to supply their place,  
 Yet backward as they are, and long have been,  
 To cultivate and keep the MORALS clean,  
 (Forgive the crime) I wish them, I confess,  
 Or better managed, or encouraged less.



THE DIVERTING

H I S T O R Y

O F

J O H N G I L P I N,

SHEWING HOW HE WENT FARTHER THAN HE  
INTENDED AND CAME SAFE HOME AGAIN.

**J** O H N Gilpin was a citizen  
Of credit and renown,  
A train-band Captain eke was he  
Of famous London town.

John Gilpin's spouse said to her dear,  
Though wedded we have been  
These twice ten tedious years, yet we  
No holiday have seen.

To-morrow is our wedding-day,

And we will then repair

Unto the Bell at Edmonton

All in a chaise and pair,

My sifter and my sifter's child,

My self and children three

Will fill the chaise, so you must ride

On horse-back after we,

He soon replied, I do admire

Of womankind but one,

And you are she, my dearest dear,

Therefore it shall be done,

I am a linnen-draper bold,

As all the world doth know,

And my good friend the Callender

Will lend his horse to go;

Quoth

Quoth Mrs. Gilpin, that's well said;  
 And for that wine is dear,  
 We will be furnish'd with our own,  
 Which is both bright and clear.

John Gilpin kiss'd his loving wife,  
 O'erjoy'd was he to find  
 That though on pleasure she was bent,  
 She had a frugal mind.

The morning came, the chaise was brought,  
 But yet was not allow'd  
 To drive up to the door, lest all  
 Should say that she was proud.

So three doors off the chaise was stay'd,  
 Where they did all get in,  
 Six precious souls, and all agog  
 To dash through thick and thin.

Smack

Smack went the whip, round went the w

Were never folk so glad,

The stones did rattle underneath

As if Cheapside were mad.

John Gilpin at his horse's side

Seized fast the flowing main,

And up he got in haste to ride,

But soon came down again.

For fiddle-tree scarce reach'd had he,

His journey to begin,

When turning round his head he saw

Three customers come in,

So down he came, for loss of time

Although it grieved him fore,

Yet loss of pence, full well he knew,

Would trouble him much more:

'Twas

'Twas long before the customers  
 Were suited to their mind,  
 When Betty screaming came down stairs,  
 "The wine is left behind."

Good lack ! quoth he, yet bring it me,  
 My leathern belt likewise  
 In which I bear my trusty sword  
 When I do exercise.

Now Mistress Gilpin, careful soul,  
 Had two stone bottles found,  
 To hold the liquor that she loved,  
 And keep it safe and sound.

Each bottle had a curling ear  
 Through which the belt he drew,  
 And hung a bottle on each side  
 To make his balance true.

Then

Then over all, that he might be  
 Equipp'd from top to toe,  
 His long red cloak well brush'd and neat  
 He manfully did throw,

Now see him mounted once again  
 Upon his nimble steed,  
 Full slowly pacing o'er the stones  
 With caution and good heed,

But finding soon a smoother road  
 Beneath his well-shod feet,  
 The snorting beast began to trot,  
 Which gall'd him in his seat,

So fair and softly, John he cried,  
 But John he cried in vain,  
 That trot became a gallop soon  
 In spite of curb and rein,

So stooping down, as needs he must  
 Who cannot sit upright,  
 He grasp'd the mane with both his hands  
 And eke with all his might.

His horse who never in that sort  
 Had handled been before,  
 What thing upon his back had got  
 Did wonder more and more.

Away went Gilpin neck or nought,  
 Away went hat and wig,  
 He little dreamt when he set out  
 Of running such a rig.

The wind did blow, the cloak did fly,  
 Like streamer long and gay,  
 'Till loop and button failing both  
 At last it flew away.

Then might all people well discern

The bottles he had flung;

A bottle fwinging at each side

As hath been said or fung:

The dogs did bark, the children scream'd;

Up flew the windows all,

And ev'ry soul cried out, well done;

As loud as he could bawl:

Away went Gilpin—who büt he;

His fame soon spread around—

He carries weight; he rides a race;

'Tis for a thousand pound.

And still as fast as he drew near;

'Twas wonderful to view

How in a trice the turnpike-men

Their gates wide open threw:

And



And now as he went bowing down  
 His reeking head full low,  
 The bottles twain behind his back  
 Were shatter'd at a blow:

Down ran the wine into the road  
 Most piteous to be seen,  
 Which made his horse's flanks to smoke  
 As they had basted been:

But still he seem'd to carry weight,  
 With leathern girdle braced,  
 For all might see the bottle necks  
 Still dangling at his waist:

Thus all through merry Islington  
 These gambols he did play,  
 And till he came unto the wass  
 Of Edmonton so gay.

And

And there he threw the wash about  
 On both sides of the way,  
 Just like unto a trundling mop,  
 Or a wild-goose at play.

At Edmonton his loving wife  
 From the balcony spied  
 Her tender husband, wond'ring much  
 To see how he did ride.

Stop, stop John Gilpin!—Here's the house—  
 They all at once did cry,  
 The dinner waits and we are tir'd,  
 Said Gilpin—so am I.

But yet his horse was not a whit  
 Inclined to tarry there,  
 For why? his owner had a house  
 Full ten miles off at Ware.

So like an arrow swift he flew  
 Shot by an archer strong,  
 So did he fly—which brings me to  
 The middle of my song.

Away went Gilpin, out of breath,  
 And fore against his will,  
 Till at his friend's the Callender's  
 His horse at last stood still.

The Callender amazed to see  
 His neighbour in such trim,  
 Laid down his pipe, flew to the gate,  
 And thus accosted him.

What news, what news, your tidings tell,  
 Tell me you must and shall—  
 Say why bare headed you are come,  
 Or why you come at all.

Now Gilpin had a pleasant wit  
 And loved a timely joke,  
 And thus unto the Callender  
 In merry guise he spoke.

I came because your horse would come,  
 And if I well forebode,  
 My hat and wig will soon be here,  
 They are upon the road.

The Callender right glad to find  
 His friend in merry pin,  
 Return'd him not a single word,  
 But to the house went in.

Whence strait he came with hat and wig,  
 A wig that flow'd behind,  
 A hat not much the worse for wear,  
 Each comely in its kind.

He held them up, and in his turn

Thus show'd his ready wit,

My head is twice as big as yours,

They therefore needs must fit.

But let me scrape the dirt away.

That hangs upon your face,

And stop and eat, for well you may

Be in a hungry case.

Said John, it is my wedding-day,

And all the world would stare,

If wife should dine at Edmonton

And I should dine at Ware,

So turning to his horse, he said,

I am in haste to dine,

'Twas for your pleasure you came here,

You shall go back for mine.

Ah luckless speech, and bootless boast !

For which he paid full dear,  
 For while he spake a braying ass  
 Did sing most loud and clear.

Whereat his horse did snort as he

Had heard a lion roar,  
 And gallop'd off with all his might  
 As he had done before.

Away went Gilpin and away

Went Gilpin's hat and wig ;  
 He lost them sooner than at first,  
 For why ? they were too big.

Now, Mistress Gilpin when she saw,

Her husband posting down  
 Into the country far away,  
 She pull'd out half a crown.

And

And thus unto the youth she said  
 That drove them to the Bell,  
 This shall be yours when you bring back  
 My husband safe and well.

The youth did ride, and soon did meet  
 John coming back amain,  
 Whom in a trice he tried to stop  
 By catching at his rein,

But not performing what he meant  
 And gladly would have done,  
 The frightened steed he frightened more,  
 And made him faster run,

Away went Gilpin, and away  
 Went post-boy at his heels,  
 The post-boy's horse right glad to miss  
 The lumb'ring of the wheels;

Six gentlemen upon the road

Thus seeing Gilpin fly,

With post-boy scamp'ring in the rear,

They rais'd the hue and cry.

Stop thief, stop thief—a highwayman!

Not one of them was mute,

And all and each that pass'd that way

Did join in the pursuit.

And now the turnpike gates again

Flew open in short space,

The toll-men thinking as before

That Gilpin rode a race.

And so he did and won it too,

For he got first to town,

Nor stopp'd 'till where he had got up

He did again get down.

Now



Now let us sing, long live the king,  
And Gilpin long live he,  
And when he next doth ride abroad,  
May I be there to see!

F I N I S.

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# P O E M S

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