A CRITICAL EDITION OF THE ODES OF
MARK AKENSI.DE, M.D.

CENTRE FOR NEWFOUNDLAND STUDIES

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HELEN PETERS
A Critical Edition of the Odes of
Mark Akenside, M.D.

Edited with an
Introduction by
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ABSTRACT

This thesis presents a critical edition of the Odes of Mark Akenside based on the official posthumous edition of his collected poetic works, as edited by his friend Jeremiah Dyson in 1772. Two odes, not included in Dyson's edition, one in The Gentleman's Magazine (1739) the other in John Garnett's New Brunswick edition of Akenside's works (1808), have been attributed to the poet by several of his biographers and are included in the present text. Of the odes published by Dyson, roughly half are presented in their final-revised forms but had been published previously in earlier versions. This edition, therefore, also presents in the textual apparatus the earlier substantive authorial variants of these odes in a manner designed to allow reconstruction of the earlier versions.

The Introduction discusses Akenside's use of the ode form, particularly his attempt to imitate classical models in Neo-classic idiom and conventions. In the discussion, the recent tradition of Akenside criticism, based largely on "The Pleasures of Imagination" and the poet's alleged pre-Romantic tendencies, is dismissed as having little bearing on the Odes, for the study of these poems reveals him as a practitioner of an established tradition rather than as an innovator of a new form of poetry.

The second part of the Introduction discusses the nature of his revisions, some of which show his struggle to compose English odes based on classical models in accordance with the diction and decorum of the
Augustans; others are of a kind common to all poets who habitually reworked their poems. Revision is widespread in a surprisingly large number of authors, and, as such information is of importance in the study of literary works, this thesis has as one of its principal concerns the devising of editorial procedures to reflect the complexity of the textual evidence in one revising poet.
Mark Akenside

Odes
Akenside is one of several poets who revised their poetry once, twice, and even three times in successive publications. This text attempts to make his odes available in all the significant variant forms which can be recovered from the printed evidence. Thirty-two odes and one fragment are printed from Jeremiah Dyson's official posthumous edition of Akenside's poetic works (1772), one from The Gentleman's Magazine (1739), and one from John Garrett's New Brunswick edition of the poet's works (1808). Earlier versions of roughly half the odes printed by Dyson had been published in London, both in collection and singly, prior to 1772. The substantive variants of these forms are presented in the apparatus.

The Introduction views Akenside as a Neo-classic poet, emphasizing his struggle in writing English odes based on classical models in accordance with the poetic principles of the Augustan age; it also discusses the nature of his revisions.

Both in the construction of the text and in the Introduction, I am indebted to the British Museum for making its Akenside collection available to me. My thanks are also due the Bodleian Library, Oxford; the Newcastle-upon-Tyne University Library; and Trinity College, Dublin which also provided me with valuable material.

I am extremely grateful to Dr. G.M. Story whose advice on the presentation of the text and whose comments on the Introduction were invaluable; and also to Dr. E.H. King for his constructive criticism of
the Introduction. For the photographs used in the text I am indebted to
Mr. W. Marsh of the Department of Geology, Memorial University.

As this work is essentially Mark Akenside's and not my own, it
can bear no dedication; could it do so, I would dedicate it to Professor
Margaret Miles-Cadman, teacher.
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ILLUSTRATIONS


GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1. Akenside’s Use of the Ode

The reputation of Mark Akenside has rested chiefly on his major work, a didactic blank verse poem in three books called "The Pleasures of Imagination" (1744). This poem, extremely popular in its day, was moderately praised by Dr. Johnson,¹ but had only a modest circulation in the nineteenth century. It has not been ignored in the twentieth century, with critical attention chiefly concerning itself with the possibility of Akenside's being a precursor of Romanticism.² It has, for example, been pointed out that he was a disciple of Anthony Ashley Cooper, the third Earl of Shaftesbury, and from him gained a view of nature which perhaps shows him as a forerunner of Wordsworth. His supposed influence upon the poems of Coleridge and Keats has also been noted. Directly opposed to this assessment is that which views Akenside's theory of imagination as an amalgamation of ideas from Plato, Aristotle, Locke, and Addison, and which concludes that the poet should not be regarded as a precursor of Romanticism.

As a lyric poet, however, as a writer of odes, Akenside has been


largely ignored. It is true, however, that Charles Bucke\(^3\) writing in
the nineteenth century admired his lyrical productions:

As a lyric poet, Akenside yields, on the whole, to Gray and Collins. He is defective in pathos; his images occasionally want warmth, and his verse melody; but his lyrical productions, nevertheless, exhibit a fine glow of sentiment, an ardent admiration of the great and good, an enthusiastic love of true liberty, an utter detestation of tyranny, and a fine sensibility to all the best and noblest feelings of the heart.

In his study of the English ode, Shuster\(^4\) devotes a page to Akenside, finding that the chief merit of the poet is his stanza form, retaining, when he is good, "the firmness of contour, the concluding half-epigrammatical, sententious line, which had been his century's most commendable achievements."

The novelist, Tobias Smollett, came closer to what Akenside was attempting than did these critics. Smollett appeared well acquainted with some of his works, and quite possibly was aware of his controversy with Bishop Warburton\(^5\) over Akenside's adherence to the contention of Shaftesbury's Characteristics that ridicule is the test of truth. He therefore held the poet up to ridicule as 'the Physician' in Peregrine Pickle, characterizing him as a classical pedant;\(^6\) the treatment is

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\(^5\) Bishop William Warburton in "Preface" to "Remarks on Several Occasional Reflections, in Answer to Dr. Middleton, etc.", The Daily Post, (March 16, 1744) castigates Akenside's use of ridicule. The "Preface" was afterwards reprinted as "Postscript to the Dedication to the Freethinkers" in the Divine Legation of Moses, 5th edition, (1766).

cruel, but essentially correct. Apart from this, Akenside has not usually been viewed as a neo-classicist, yet to follow classical models was his intent:

The following ODES were written at very distant intervals, and with a view to very different manners of expression and versification. The author pretends chiefly to the merit of endeavouring to be correct, and of carefully attending to the best models.7

This aim was in accordance with Neo-classic poetic practice followed by writers such as Pope, Dryden, and Gray whose imitations and translations are of diverse originals ranging from Horace and Ovid to Chaucer. Not only were classical models imitated in English by them and Akenside, but large numbers of compositions were produced in Latin by poets such as Gray, John Jortin, Anthony Alsop, the Friend brothers, and other Anglo-Latin poets.8 Akenside, who composed inscriptions in Latin, wrote his odes in English, his chief model being Horace.

A brief glance at the odes of the English and Roman poets is sufficient to show that Akenside's imitation did not extend to metrics and stanza forms; it was limited to subject matter, occasionally to manner of expression, and, more rarely, tone. Several of his odes are based on Horace, frequently in part, occasionally in toto; in all the odes classical machinery and Horatian 'commonplaces' appear.

7 "Advertisement" to Odes on Several Subjects, (1745). This edition, p. 1.

This introduction is chiefly concerned with Akenside the Neo-classic lyric poet. In this section the main focus will be those models he admired, looking at his use of material from his favourite poets and his adaptation of classical machinery in his odes. The second section will deal with Akenside's revisions, here it will be seen that he revised for his own personal reasons, in accordance with Neo-classic conventions, and also in ways common to all revising poets.

A discussion of the odes, both models and imitations, involves both general and specific borrowings. Before examining the odes in detail, certain general themes should be mentioned. Like Horace, Akenside was aware of his literary pedigree, and imitated well-known passages of his "illustrious predecessors", notably, Pindar, Alcaeus, Sappho, and Anacreon. Again, like the Roman poet, he urges enjoyment of the day (iii. I. 26-32) yet also resorts to Stoicism (ii. VI. 25-32); the pointlessness of avarice is treated (i. III. 36-42) and also the loss of all possessions at death (iii. I. 18-25). Finally, following Horace, he uses geographical references in several odes, vocative addresses, the mention of scenes from his boyhood (Newcastle-upon-Tyne), the countryside, and the names of friends either real or disguised.

For detailed study, it is useful to group the poems in categories according to subject matter as the topics covered, poetry, patriotism and love of liberty, friendship, love, and a miscellaneous group are distinct yet lead to each other in the order here discussed.

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Odes on Poetry

Poetry itself is the topic of nine odes and this group shows Akenside's poetic credo, both as a Neo-classicist and as an individual. "Preface", i. I, formerly called "Allusion to Horace" (1745), takes one theme only from Horace's iv. II. The idea of Horace as a lowly Matinian bee and Pindar a Dircean swan appeals to Akenside and he incorporates it in his ode, resolving to follow the former and not the latter. This is the extent of Horatian borrowing in the poem.

Having expressed his taste as regards the classical writers, he gives his opinion of contemporary poets. Like Pope he has no qualms about castigating a contemporary, but having begun his ode without referring to poets by name, he continues, leaving the reader to guess the identity of the objects of his derision. The "boding raven" may well be Thomas Warton who liked Gothic gloom and whose verse "always conveys a faint aroma of midnight oil." The "owl" is possibly Edward Young, parts of whose Night Thoughts had been published when Akenside's ode first appeared in 1745. Other poets criticised are probably Robert Blair (The Grave), John Jortin and William Thompsoon who published 'graveyard poems' in Latin, and it is not unlikely that the "noxious thing" refers to the satiric writing of the Jacobite, William King, for Akenside like most Neo-classic writers was in favour of the Hanoverian rule and the stable government England had achieved since the overthrow of the Stuarts.

10 For sigla used in this edition see p. lix.

11 Shuster, p. 200.
"On the Use of Poetry", i. VII, is based on two Horatian odes (i. I and iv. VIII). Horace's first ode (i. I) is composed on the pattern of a Greek "priamel", leading up to the main point through a preparatory chain. "The pursuits of various types of men serve as a foil" to the poet's own life and scale of values. All men have their part to play, and Horace's role is that of vates. The other model (iv. VIII) culminates in the idea that it is only through a poet's praise that any man can be granted immortality. Akenside's ode begins with the roles ordained to man, working quickly to the important role of the poet:

Nor far beneath the hero's feet,
Nor from the legislator's seat
Stands far remote the bard.

19-21

The last three stanzas of the ode follow the second model (iv. VIII) by listing forgotten heroes of both ancient history and seventeenth-century England, contrasting them with the poet and his immortal works.

The first ode of section three is a translation rather than an imitation. In his poem (iii. I.) Horace, in a dignified and remote manner, refers to himself as the Muses' priest and castigates the folly of wrong living. Akenside retains the subject matter of this ode, inserting a section, not in the original, which consists of a series of questions asking why the pleasures of the moment are not grasped (26-32). The tone of the original is lost as Akenside appears

13 Ibid., p. 231.
14 Ibid., p. 421. Cf. also Shakespeare's sonnets.
peevish and involved.

"To the Muse", i. X, earlier called "On the Absence of the Poetic Inclination" (1745), is an interesting rejection of the classics and an announcement of the poet's dependence upon the English tradition of poetry. The "queen of [his] songs" has left him and with her has gone his inspiration. Olympia was Dione\(^{15}\) in the earlier version and is a symbol of classic verse; in both versions she is unable to rouse his poetic flame. Only Milton's name wakes him from his lethargy, allowing his Muse to return.

"On Lyric Poetry", i. XIII, is based on Horace's iv. IX and written in Pindaric stanzas (strophe, antistrophe, and epode). Like Horace he shows the dignity of the lyric form, and like him too, parades the great lyric writers of the past for the reader's inspection. Horace names seven poets, Akenside only four, sketching their characters in greater detail. He first introduces Anacreon, the poet of Teos, associated with wine and roses; next Alcaeus, the patriotic poet of Lesbos; thirdly, Sappho. The treatment of Sappho is interesting for in Horace's poem, she "is described in such a way and with such affection that the reader is given at least some idea of the true nature of her poetry:

\[
\text{spirat adhuc amor} \\
\text{vivuntque commissi calores} \quad 16 \\
\text{AEOLIAE FIDIBUS PUELLAE.} ^{16}
\]

\(^{15}\) Dione or Diana was the Triple-goddess of the Dove and Oak. Her temple was at Dodona. For a discussion of Olympia see p. xliii.

\(^{16}\) Fraenkel, p. 424.
Akenside tries to achieve the Horatian effect by translating lines 20–24 of Sappho's "To Aphrodite":

Who, Sappho, wounds thy tender breast?
Say, flies he?— Soon he shall pursue:
Shuns he thy gifts?— He soon shall give:
Slights he thy sorrows?— He shall grieve,
And soon to all thy wishes bow.

Akenside ends the procession, as Horace had begun his, with Pindar, "the man of Thebes": The ode is not finished, however, for Akenside departs from his model and continues with a plea to Melpomene, the Muse of Tragedy, to grace the English scene as she had the Greek, hopefully unaccompanied by the "impious revels" which, in her wake, had infected Greece. The power of this muse is described and the hope that wisdom will guide her is expressed. The poet then wishes that this companion of his leisured, non-medical hours would help him to reproduce the lyrics of his great forebears. The ode draws to a close with the declaration that to write of patriotism and liberty he needs no Muse's assistance, and ends "Nor by another's fate submits to be confin'd" (120). According to Bucke, Akenside was determined to write an epic about his favourite hero Timoleon, and the reference here

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16 Fraenkel, p. 424.
18 Akenside interpolates 'he' for 'she'.
19 Bucke, p. 73.
is to Glover, whose "Leonidas" he considered to be a failure.

"To the Author of Memoirs of the House of Brandenburgh", ii. XIII, expresses displeasure at King Frederick of Prussia's turning historian and possibly giving a spurious account of history to posterity. After comparing him with those other chronicling warriors, Xenophon and Julius Caesar, he ends the ode with the horror that true legislators must feel over the presumption of Frederick.

"To William Hall, Esquire: With the Works of Chaulieu", ii. VI, shows the influence on men which Akenside assigned to the poet. Hall, slightly acquainted with Akenside, was living licentiously and, according to Haupt, the poet sent him the voluptuous writings of Abbé de Chaulieu accompanied by this ode criticising the works, in hopes of reforming him. His criticism of Chaulieu states that his poetry is not dictated by the Muse. His writing is a "well-dissembled art" giving harmony to "the lame pace of Gallic rhymes" (12), but lacking the skill and grandeur of the ancient bards. Of his subject matter, Akenside continues, it is unnecessary to invoke the stern morality of Cato or Chrysippus's Stoicism to prove that Chaulieu's creed, ignoring all gods but Bacchus and Venus, cannot win approval of the "inexorable judge within".

"To Thomas Edwards, Esquire: on the Late Edition of Mr. Pope's Works, MDCCCLII", ii. X, published first in 1758, is a tribute to Edwards, the author of Canons of Criticism (1751) in which he criticised Akenside's old enemy Warburton and his edition of Shakespeare. In the poem

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Warburton stands alone in disliking Pope, against the whole tradition of poetry from Virgil to Milton. The ode ends with an appeal to Edwards again to stop the "railor's tongue".

The last poem solely concerned with the poetic art is "The Remonstrance of Shakespeare", ii. I. Here Akenside attempts the heroic couplet of Pope on the subject matter of Dryden's An Essay of Dramatic Poesy. From Dryden's rivalry between English and French drama, he takes the main thesis in his treatment of the French comedians and Shakespeare; to it he adds his own feverish patriotism and his own love of liberty:

I saw this England break the shameful bands
Forg'd for the souls of men by sacred hands;
I saw each groaning realm her aid implore;
Her sons the heroes of each warlike shore;
Her naval standard (the dire Spaniard's bane)
Obey'd through all the circuit of the main,

23-28

Or have my various scenes a purpose Known
Which freedom, virtue, glory, might not own?

43-44

Of these nine odes, four are based on Horace, one on Dryden, and four appear to have no specific models. In those cases where models and imitations can be compared, the debt is seen to vary from a single theme incorporated in an entirely different poem to a rendering of much of the subject matter found in the originals. In all the odes classical allusions occur, sometimes merely for decoration, but at times, as in ii. XIII where Frederick is made one more in a series of spurious historian-rulers, the allusions give scope to the work. The Muse, he claims, is his inspiration, coming to him via the media of earlier poets, both ancient and English. Regarding his taste in poetry, he is quite clear--he likes the great poets of Greece, Rome,
and England, and detests the graveyard school, licentious poets, dishonest writers, and French dramatists. These latter fail in their duty as laid down by Horace—the poet must please and instruct. To Akenside, the best instruction the poet can give is that which instills love of liberty and patriotism. Indeed, he finds this the chief function of the poet.

**Odes on Patriotism and Liberty**

There are five odes in this group; they are generally his longest odes, suiting the importance which he assigned to the topic.

The first ode on the theme is i. VIII, "On Leaving Holland", written in Pindaric stanzas. Akenside took his medical degree at Leyden on May 16, 1744, and left Holland very shortly after. This ode commemorates his departure by contrasting his dislike of Holland with his love for England. In Holland, he claims, mediocrity reigned, poetic inspiration was stunted, love impossible, and liberty non-existent; the poet therefore looks forward to returning to England with its pastoral beauties and inspiring nymphs which will aid him in creating music on the Greek pattern. The music he creates, however, fails to achieve the harmony of the Greek:

O Phoebus,\(^1\) guardian of the Ionian choir,
Why sounds not mine harmonious as thy own?

52-53

But the real inspiration for writing in England is its liberty. The poem goes on to say that he will rise, with his country, above "degenerate

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\(^1\) Phoebus Apollo, Greek god of music, archery, prophecy, medicine, and care of flocks. Of his oracular shrines, Delphi was chief, but an important one was at Claros in Ionia.
and Roman-enslaved Gaul like the seventeenth-century, political-
freedom fighters who have prepared the way. The advantages their
rebellion has bestowed, courage, science, and truth, instill patriotism
into the English, making them lovers of liberty who detest those
foreign shores that fail to share their view.

Immediately following this ode is "To Curio", i. IX, which
first appeared as "An Epistle to Curio" (1744). Curio is William
Pulteney, a staunch member of the Whig opposition during Sir Robert
Walpole's government. On July 14, 1742, he was made a Peer with the
title Earl of Bath and it was generally thought that he "bartered his
patriotism for an earldom". The "Epistle" has been among the best-
received of Akenside's poems; the "Ode" has not fared so well and most
commentators who mention the poems refer to Johnson's remark that
"having written with great vigour and poignancy his Epistle to Curio, he
transformed it afterwards into an Ode disgraceful only to its author."24

Both poems concern the treachery of Pulteney; in the "Epistle"
the setting is classical, but in the "Ode" the background becomes
English in an attempt to bring the deeds involved closer to the English
conscience. He anglicises by introducing a section listing English
kings:

22 Latium is Rome which did not 'fall' until well into the Christian era.
Perhaps Akenside is thinking of the change from republican to imperial
rule which had begun with Caesar. Since he appears to hold republican
views he is probably adopting the pose, common among some Roman writers
of the imperial era, that Rome has declined from the vigour and purity
of the republican age.

23 Haupt, p. 98.

24 Johnson, IV, 101.
O Alfred, father of the English name,
O valiant Edward, first in civil fame,
O William, height of public virtue pure,

He also revises passages to eliminate classical allusions, replacing them with English material:

O Latium oft by faithless sons betray'd!—
Epistle, 158
O Albion oft to flattering vows a prey!
Ode, 72

Those betrayers of English freedom, Thomas Wentworth, the Earl of Strafford, under Charles I, and Thomas Clifford under Charles II,\(^{25}\) replace the Roman tyrants, Appius Claudius and L. Cornelius Cinna of the "Epistle".\(^{26}\)

The "Ode" ends with a plea to ignore classical history and to look to England's past as a model for government and political thinking:

Dream not of Numa's manners,\(^{27}\) Plato's laws:
A wiser founder, and a nobler plan,
O sons of Alfred, were for you assign'd:

"To the Right Honourable Francis Earl of Huntingdon", i. XVIII, is a long Pindaric ode urging Hastings, the Earl of Huntingdon, as poet and public figure, to incite the people of England to noble action. Because Hastings is both poet and politician, the ode discusses these roles and the manners in which they have been acted from Greek to modern

---

\(^{25}\) Ode, 133-34.

\(^{26}\) Epistle, 311-12.

\(^{27}\) Numa Pompilius, second king of Rome.
times. The noblest role is that of the poet who, like Pindar and Milton, plays an active part in the political affairs of his country, and the basest, he who merely flatters a tyrant or promotes pleasure without instructing. As the ode draws to a close, England's civil war is discussed, and Akenside's republican feelings appear; the revolutionaries "plann'd for freedom this her noblest reign" (200). The end of the ode is a warning against those Stuart sympathisers who are still enemies of the Hanoverian regime.

Before leaving this ode, a possible debt to Pope must be mentioned. According to Haupt, 28 Warton contended that Akenside's lines:

Mark, how the dread Pantheon stands,
Amid the domes of modern hands;
Amid the toys of idle state,
How simply, how severely great!

are successfully based on ll. 247-52 of the Essay on Criticism:

Thus when we view some well-proportion'd dome,
(The world's just wonder, ev'n thine, O Rome!) No single parts unequally surprise,
All comes united to th' adiring eyes:
No monstrous height, or breadth, or length appear, The Whole at once is bold and regular.

"To the Right Reverend Benjamin Lord Bishop of Winchester", ii. VII, is a Pindaric ode addressed to Benjamin Hoadley who, like Akenside, was a self-appointed defender of civil and political liberty and a controversialist of note. 29 Akenside's admiration of his religious, civil, and political principles is strong:

28 Haupt, p. 137.
29 Ibid., p. 135.
For not a conqueror's sword,
Nor the strong powers to civil founders known,
Were his; but truth by faithful search explor'd,
And social sense, like seed, in genial plenty sown.
Wherever it took root, the soul (restor'd)
To freedom) freedom too for others sought.
Not monkish craft the tyrant's claim divine,
Not regal zeal the bigot's cruel shrine
Could longer guard from reason's warfare sage;
Not the wild rabble to sedition wrought;
Nor synods by the papal Genius taught,
Nor St. John's spirit loose, nor Atterbury's rage.

The last of the patriotic odes, "To the Country Gentlemen of
England", ii. XI, exhorts the men addressed to attempt to regain the
valour of past ages, both ancient and England's own. The poem was
written while England was engaged in the Seven Years War, and except
for the few actually involved in fighting, war profiteering and
'business-as-usual' prevailed, even in the face of losses in the
European theatre and a threatened invasion of the island. Akenside
was incensed, not only at the complacency of the English, but with all
nations engaged in the war who used mercenary armies to fight their
battles. The ode, however, chiefly attacks the men of England who re-
mained away from the fronts, surrounded by the protecting sea, collecting
envy-breeding wealth to their peril. Such preoccupation with comfort and
wealth cost them their freedom, which they could only regain by par-
ticipating in war, leading their own troops as their fathers had done.

30 Henry St. John Bolingbroke (1678-1751), whose deistical
Philosophical Works was published in 1752.

31 Francis Atterbury, the Bishop of Rochester (1622-1732). He openly
opposed the Catholicism of James II, and under Queen Anne, he became a
Jacobite. He was banished in 1722 (DNB).

32 Haupt, p. 142.
He taunts them:

Why are ye tardy? what inglorious care
Detains you from their head, your native post?
71-72

He flings the names and deeds of warriors, both ancient and fourteenth and fifteenth-century English, at his compatriots who, having lost contact with the land, are "deep in London's gloomy haunts immur'd" (ll3), while "loose adventurers" fight their battles.

Akenside's odes on liberty and patriotism show his love for his country and the faults he finds with the people of his day whose views on republicanism, leadership, freedom, politics, and patriotism fail to agree with his own. There is little doubt after reading the odes that he tries to perform the function of the poet as he sees it, attempting to incite his readers to love of liberty and patriotic fervor that will match in intensity, his own feelings on the subject. Reaction to his attempts ranges from enthusiastic acceptance to mere tolerant reception. 33

33 Bucke on p. 124 quotes the Monthly Review as follows: "The poetical productions of this two-fold disciple of Apollo have this peculiar excellence; they uniformly glow with the sacred fire of liberty; in as much that our public-spirited doctor well deserves to be styled the poet of the community. In this light we read his Ode to the Country Gentlemen of England, with peculiar satisfaction. It is spirited, manly, and sufficiently poetical, for those to whom it is addressed;— and as, in former times, the halls of our rural ancestors were adorned with passages from our old chronicles, so we heartily wish, that most of the stanzas of this patriotic performance were to supply the place, in our modern mansions, of race horses, Newmarket jockies, and the trophies of the chase."

Haupt, on pp. 143-44 cites John Byrom's parody of Akenside and William Whitehead called "Remarks upon Dr. Akenside's and Mr. Whitehead's Verses":

"Whither is EUROPE'S ancient spirit fled?"
How came this Query in the Doctor's head?
"Whither is BRITAIN'S?" —one had sooner guess'd,
In Ode to his own Countrymen address'd;
Of his specific debt to the ancients in these odes there is little to be said. There is nothing as specific as his borrowings from Horace in other odes, except, of course, the Pindaric stanza (strophe, antistrophe, and epode) which he uses in three of the five odes and general themes of patriotism found in Pindar's Epinician odes and common in Horace as well. It is worth noting that unlike Cowley, Pomfret, Isaac Watts, and others, Akenside did not use the Pindaric form to take "a holiday from the Rules" and break with Neo-classic conventions. His structure is as formal as his model's, and his themes no wilder than is usual in his odes.

**Odes on Friendship**

In the odes on friendship, as in the odes on poetic theory, patriotism and love of freedom play a major role, being a topic of con-

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But, as outlandish Rivers soon infer it,  
(Six in three Lines) it must be EUROPE'S Spirit.  

Of "valiant Tenants of her Shore," 'tis said,  
"Who from the warrior Bow the strong Dart's sped;"  
Let Bow be "Warrior," and let Dart be "strong,"  
Verse does not "speed" so speedily along;  
"The strong Dart sped" —does go but thump, thump, thump,  
That quick as thrown should pierce the Liver plump.  

"And with firm Hand the rapid Poleaxe bore."
If it had been "the rapid Dart" before,  
And "the strong poleaxe," here, it had agreed  
With a firm Hold as well, and darting speed.  
Whither are fled from Ode-Versification  
The ancient "Pleasures of Imagination"?

version for the poet and his friends.

The first ode, "To Sir Francis Henry Drake, Baronet", i. XII, exists in two quite different versions. The variant printed in the apparatus is an invitation to Drake,35 asking him to spend January 30, 1749 at Hampstead with Jeremiah Dyson36 and himself to commemorate the execution of Charles I. It will be an intimate meeting during which they can speak privately of England’s present, Greek’s past, poetry, philosophy, and friendship.

The form of the ode printed as the main text has a broad base of themes from Horace. It begins with allusions to astronomy and classical mythology, then describes, in Horatian manner, a farmer working his land:37

Late did the farmer’s fork o’erspread
With recent soil the twice-mown mead,
Tainting the bloom which autumn knows:
He whets the rusty coulter now,
He binds his oxen to the plough,
And wide his future harvest throws.

5-10

Statesmen hurry to London while rural damsels aspire to their attention;

35 For note on Drake see note 3, p. 62.

36 Jeremiah Dyson, lawyer, Clerk of the House of Commons, 1747-62. He was elected M.P. for the Borough of Haslemere in 1762, became Secretary to the Treasury, and was made Lord of the Treasury in 1768. He met Akenside in 1744 and became his lifelong friend. He is supposed to have allowed the poet £300 per year; he introduced him to his influential friends and was instrumental in Akenside’s obtaining the post of Physician in Ordinary to Queen Charlotte. He is referred to in a number of Akenside’s poems.

37 Nisbet, p. xx. In several of Horace’s odes, "rustics live simply but abundantly ... Yet the picture is not all idyllic".

xxvi
only Drake remains in the country. The teasing invitation is extended requesting that Drake spend Guy Fawkes Day (November 5th) with him, so that they may speak of the perfidy of James II and the nobility of William of Orange. As not only public matters are of concern to friends, their conversation will turn to private subjects, such as love. Three women are mentioned in connection with Drake—Aglaias, one of the three Graces; Daphne, a mountain nymph; and Myrto, a title of the Sea-goddess. As for Akenside himself, he is still involved with Olympia, and here again I believe her to be a symbol of Greek verse. There is no authority identifying the women whom Akenside claims to love, and I am inclined to think that here, as in Horace, "while the male participants are real...The girls are fictitious and sometimes romanticised".

Two odes are addressed to Charles Townshend, i. XIV "From the Country" and ii. IV "In the Country". Townshend was a noted parliamentary speaker who became a Lord of the Admiralty, and later Chancellor of the Exchequer. His friendship with Akenside faded sometime after the second ode had been written and no positive reason for the failure of their friendship has ever been given.

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38 Ibid., p. xxi. Teasing is associated with the invitation poem; p. xv. Odes in the form of invitations and celebration of festivals are common Horatian themes.

39 Haupt, p. 121.

40 Nisbet, p. xvi.

41 Bucke, pp. 115-16 cites Boswell's assertion that the break occurred because Townshend's social position rose above that of the poet. He then discredited that contention.
The first ode (i. XIV) urges Townshend to join him in the
country where spring is very pleasant. It is a good example of
eighteenth-century usage of classical machinery; for example, his
expression of his inability to write:

the rural gods
Expect me in their green abodes,
And chide my tardy lay.
16-18

Inspiration comes in the form of Naiads and wood-nymphs who are
unable to help him since he suffers from "grief of love". When Drake
comes, friendship will restore his happiness:

Then will the sylvan powers again
Receive me in their genial train
And listen to my lyre.
40-42

The second ode, "In the Country", ii. IV, is quite different.
It is a long Pindaric which early states the author's premonition of
the ending of the friendship he had enjoyed with Townshend in rustic
bliss. Townshend must leave this life to take up his new duties:

For not imprudent of my loss to come,
I saw from contemplation's quiet cell
His feet ascending to another home
Where public praise and envied greatness dwell.
21-24

The ode is full of advice and mentions not only those whose talents lie
beneath Townshend's but also those whose deeds are too great to be
emulated. Akenside assures his friend that he will continue to
advise and criticise him in his high role and stresses the problems

42 Poets such as Spenser who did not attempt to urge noble, warlike
pursuits in his poetry and James Harrington (1664-1693), a lawyer and
poet (DNB).

43 Cromwell and a member of the legendary Vere family which held an
Earldom through its male line which was continuous from the time of the
Conqueror for five-and-a-half centuries (DNB).
which others have met and with which he will be faced. Peaceful pursuits are praised over warlike endeavours,\textsuperscript{44} traitors castigated,\textsuperscript{45} and noble men praised.\textsuperscript{46} The ode ends with the hope that Townshend will act nobly and be a fit subject of praise for the poet's lyre.

The last ode, "To Caleb Hardinge, M.D.", i. XVI, is addressed to a medical acquaintance whom Akenside probably met through Dyson.\textsuperscript{47} Hardinge was educated at King's College, Cambridge, and was appointed Physician Extraordinary to the King. He "was a man of singular habits and whims, a scholar with an inquiring mind, and a doctor noted for his medical sagacity."\textsuperscript{48} He and Akenside had a violent argument at his home one evening about bilious colic. The argument, which caused Akenside to leave in a rage, was later forgotten owing to Hardinge's efforts, and the two remained friends.

The ode, beginning with allusions to astronomy, wintry nature, and the classics, concerns itself with Akenside's republican opinions on politics and the conversation he hopes to have with Hardinge. In their meeting, he hopes to speak of his early experience with the clergy\textsuperscript{49} "Which my first youth inamor'd saw"(35), Locke's philosophy,

\textsuperscript{44} The Civil War parliamentarian, John Pym, is praised over General Fairfax.
\textsuperscript{45} Thomas Wentworth, the Earl of Strafford.
\textsuperscript{46} Somers. See note 5, p. 65.
\textsuperscript{47} Haupt, p. 119.
\textsuperscript{48} Ibid., p. 120.
\textsuperscript{49} Akenside and his family were Dissenters. When he first went to Edinburgh, he studied for the clergy but after a year, left the ministry for medicine.
and Virgil. The ode ends with a plea to his Muse that she chastise his "English fancy" to "Grecian purity" as he tries to combine truth and beauty and attempts to control Plato's philosophy with Bacon's inductive science.

The odes on friendship show the influence of the classics, one in particular owing much to Horace. His high regard for friendship and conversation shows him in agreement with his age when poets had patrons, and conversation was highly prized:

The writers are never tired of discussing it. Steele gives much of his space in Tatlers, Spectators, and Guardians to explaining the nature and significance of polite conversation; Swift satirizes conversational clichés; Fielding writes a long essay and Cowper a long poem on conversation; Johnson deals with it in the Rambler and practises it continually, while Boswell and others record it; Jane Austen counts it among the essential qualifications of a hero or heroine.  

Odes on Love

Nine odes concern love, and incorporate both Akenside's own views and Horatian themes and treatment. No women have ever been identified in connection with Akenside, and to read his poems autobiographically would be, I think, fruitless.

In "To a Friend, Unsuccessful in Love", i. III, previously called "To a Gentleman whose Mistress had married an Old Man" (1745), like Horace in i. XXXIII, Akenside adopts "a detached, ironic pose":  

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50 Sutherland, p. 65.
51 Haupt offers no identifications but thinks the ladies existed. See p. 45, 105, 116.
52 Nisbet, p. xvii.
INDEED, my Phaedria, if to find
That wealth can female wishes gain
Had e'er disturb'd your thoughtful mind,
Or cost one serious moment's pain,
I should have said that all the rules,
You learn'd of moralists and schools,
Were very useless, very vain.

1-7

As in the same Horatian model, he has "the satirist's eye for social comedy ...[in] the chain of incompatible and unrequited loves": 54

Ye guardian powers of love and fame,
This chaste harmonious pair behold;
And thus reward the generous flame
Of all who barter vows for gold,
O bloom of youth, O tender charms
Well-buried in a dotard's arms!
O equal price of beauty sold!

36-42

In Horace the rival is a young man, in Akenside he is a wealthy dotard. Phaedria is urged to forget her, and in time will find "Some happier love, some truer fair" (63).

"Affected Indifference. To the Same", i. VI, chastises Phaedria's inability to ignore his maid as her falsehood is best repaid with "cool neglect".

"On Love, to a Friend", i. XI, is influenced by Horace's i. VIII in which women ruin men's courage:

But love unbends the force of thought;
By love unmanly fears are taught;
And love's reward with gaudy sloth is bought.

12-14

If the friend is certain, however, that he is immune to love, he should

53 A conventional classical name to disguise a contemporary; here it stands for Thomas Edwards.

54 Misbet, p. xvi.
visit his Delia in her most beautiful and seductive setting. Classical machinery is introduced in the form of Apollo, Hermes, and Minerva, playing lyres; and the poet himself is greatly affected by the picture he has drawn. Warning against friendship with a woman, the poet tells of a time in his past when such friendship became tormenting love, and how, like Horace in iv.I, he is not yet free from temptation:

Fool that I was—and now, even now
While thus I preach the Stoic strain,
Unless I shun Olympia’s view,
An hour unsays it all again.

64-67

Ode II in the third section entitled “An Ode, July, 1740” is addressed to Cordelia and concerns the views of the younger Akenside on love. Here, his concern is for peaceful joy and friendship with the young woman. His hope is that they can stand where:

no rude storm of passion blows,
But sports, and smiles, and virtues play,
Cheer’d by affection’s purest rays;

25-28

and watch the proud and ambitious jostling for social position.

Ode VIII in Book ii shows traces of those Horatian odes in which women’s beauties are mentioned only in very general terms by the uninvolved poet. In the ode, Amoret is, to her lover, the fairest, most virtuous, and perfect of all beauties.

“At Study”, ii. IX, shows the author involved, not with a lover:

Me though no peculiar fair
Touches with a lover’s care;

19-20

but with love:

55 The name under which Plania was celebrated in the love-poetry of Tibullus.
Yet at eve my lonely breast
Seeks in vain for perfect rest;
Languishes for true content.

In "On Recovering from a Fit of Sickness, in the Country",
i. XII, the poet recovers his health, and consequently his Muse and
the ability to write, at Dyson's estate on Golder's Hill. According
to Bucke, the friendship of Akenside and Dyson was in the classic
manner as described by Plato, Cicero, Plutarch, Marcus Antoninus, and
Epictetus (in Arrian). It is not surprising, therefore, to read of
the Athenian sages, Mantuan music, and Tully's "reverend shade" which
attend their time together. The end of the ode is in praise of true
love, like the end of Horace's i. XIII. It is Akenside's epithalamion
for Dyson's bride, in which she appears accompanied by the appropriate
classical figures, Venus, Cupid, and Hymen, so that her union with
Dyson has dignity equal to Dyson's friendship with the poet.

"The Complaint", ii. XIV, is bitter:

AWAY! Away!
Tempt me no more, insidious love;

It would be pleasant to win a woman's heart, but love is a "squanderer
of content and ease" (16).

The ode immediately following, "On Domestic Manners", ii. XV,
is unfinished, and again bitter and abusive. English womanhood has lost
its honour and sense of shame; as in Horace's i. V the women are flirts:

56 Bucke, p. 71
But with triumphant eyes
And cheeks impassive, as they move along,
Ask homage of the throng. 15-17

Also as in Horace (iii. VI) moral degradation has set in:

Our maids no more aspire
The arts of bashful Hymen to attain; 13-14

Behold; unbless'd at home,
The father of the cheerless household mourns:
The night in vain returns,
For love and glad content at distance roam;
While she, in whom his mind
Seeks refuge from the day's dull task of cares,
To meet him she prepares,
Through noise and spleen and all the gamester's art,
A listless, harrass'd heart,
Where not one tender thought can welcome find. 21-30

The poem ends with Britannia's guardian Genius about to vent her wrath
on this state of affairs.

Akenside's odes on love, in virtually all cases, owe much to
Horace in approach and theme. Peculiar to Akenside throughout, however,
is his dislike of love and its effects which leads to speculation on
disappointing affairs. There is no biographical information to prove
or disprove involvements and they must remain in the realm of conjecture.

Other Odes

The remaining eight odes form no consistent group in subject
matter or style; they are best viewed individually.

"On the Winter Solstice", i. II, is based in part on Horace
(i. IX). It begins by tracing the northward sweep of the sun, which
in its course passes Mount Potosi in Bolivia; Horace had mentioned
Mount Soracte. The gloom of winter is painted, then the ode follows
Horace in urging fires and wine to dispel the misery. The poem departs from its source with the introduction of the rustic family awaiting the father's return and the invocation to the poet's lyre to hail the approaching spring. It follows the model again in urging man not to attempt interference with nature, and leaves with a stanza on the use of a wintry evening for meditating on ancient chiefs and legislators, Plato, and poetry. The source is followed again in urging companionship and love, then Akenside branches off into the coming spring which will return Eudora\(^57\) (formerly Lucinda) to him; in her presence, he will again write.

Bucke\(^58\) suggests that this ode influenced Robert Burns in writing his "Dirge".

"Against Suspicion", i. V, is supposedly addressed to an acquaintance whom Akenside had met in Edinburgh, and who suspected his wife of being involved with a man called Thurloe.\(^59\) Suspicion is personified and both she and the poem move rapidly. From Horace, Akenside takes two ideas and incorporates them in his poem. The first is "Durus" the east wind, which appears frequently in the odes of the Roman poet,\(^60\) and the second is the healing power of the country.\(^61\) This lively ode moves rapidly to its conclusion——the plea for an open mind.

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\(^{57}\) Possibly Eudore (generous) who was one of the Hyades or rain-makers.

\(^{58}\) Bucke, p. 20.

\(^{59}\) Haupt, p. 103.

\(^{60}\) i. XXV; i. XXVIII; ii. XVI; iii. XVII; iv. IV; iv. VI.

\(^{61}\) i. XVII; iii. XXIX.
"Hymn to Cheerfulness", i. VI, is based loosely on Horace (i. XXXV) and possibly, as Haupt suggests, the birth of Cheerfulness is copied from that of "mirth" in Milton's "L'Allegro". The ode owes little to its Horatian model except in being a hymn to a goddess with a somewhat similar listing of her retinue. In Akenside's poem, however, it is Cheerfulness's mother Health whose companions are noted, not the heroine herself. The ode begins with a description of unpleasant weather, his own misery, and a plea for a soothing power in the person of Cheerfulness. The birth of the goddess follows, and her powers are discussed in relation to man as an individual, in the family, as a lover, and as a poet. Regarding poets, Akenside feels that Young and the graveyard school lack her influence while Homer, Pindar, Alcaeus, Sappho, Theocritus, Anacreon, and Horace are graced with her presence. The ode moves to a close in criticising the cheerless life of the hermit and ends with the hope that Cheerfulness will dwell with him and his friend Sophron.

"To the Evening Star", i. XV, is Akenside's most melodious ode. In subject matter it is similar to many of his odes, consisting of classical allusions, his renouncing of love, and the country-side. As he walks, listening to the joyful song of a nightingale, he thinks sadly of "man's uncertain lot", the power of kings, the woes of the virtuous, the grief of knowledge, passing pleasures, and his own cares.

"On a Sermon against Glory", i. XVII, shows "mental arrogance"

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62 Haupt, p. 104, citing Havens.

63 A Syracusan writer of mimes; here standing for Jeremiah Dyson.
and a "passionate interest in abstract problems". The ode coldly prefers the glory of Milton, Timoleon, and Tully over the power and wealth of France and Portugal.

"On Love of Praise", ii. V, deserves similar criticism for its argument in favour of praise which completely lacks human feeling and wit.

"To Sleep", ii. II, seeks the healing comfort of sleep, for the author who feels that he alone, in all of nature, fails to find rest. As one would expect, the poet is not bothered by love and does not wish for nightmares. The interest in the ode lies in the changes his ambitions have undergone during the course of his life. He no longer seeks kingly power, a life in politics, wealth, or to be a hero; he wishes instead for poetic talent and medical ability.

64 Iolo A. Williams, Seven XVIIIth Century Bibliographies, (London: Dulau, 1924), p. 83. Williams continues (ibid.):

He gives the ordinary modest, friendly, emotional, human being so very few concessions, that it is, perhaps, not astonishing that the ordinary human being has left him almost alone in his glory. Yet it is quite clear, I think, that Akenside did not lack emotion, but that his emotion was evoked, partly from natural inclination, and partly from deliberate intent, by subjects that do not, at a first glance, attract the attention and sympathy of the majority of mankind.

65 Marcus Tullius, curule aedile of Rome. As such he used a chair or seat inlaid with ivory and shaped like a camp-stool which was used by the highest magistrates of Rome.

66 When Akenside was a medical student at Edinburgh he was ambitious for a political career. Haupt, p. 41.
"To the Cuckow", ii. III, gently shows the quiet sorrow which comes from knowing that where the nightingale and romance exist, the cuckoo and disillusionment may be close behind.

These are the odes of Mark Akenside, discussed in the form in which they appear in the text of this edition. In the case of sixteen odes, the versions discussed were achieved after considerable authorial revision and successive publications. It is therefore necessary to study these revisions, to show how Akenside used his material and bowed to the convention of his genre as well as that of his age.
2. **Authorial Revision**

Authorial revision is a common phenomenon in English literature. Chaucer revised the "Prologue" to the "Legend of Good Women", Keats, Milton, Wordsworth, to name but a few, had second, and third, thoughts about their poetry, while in our own century Yeats, Auden and Eliot are notable examples of poets who, for one reason or another, felt impelled to rework old poems. Akenside too illustrates this phenomenon. Of his sixteen odes published in multiple editions, one occurs in four variant forms,\(^1\) nine in three versions,\(^2\) four in two;\(^3\) of the remaining two, one has been discussed elsewhere,\(^4\) and the other is in essence, two poems rather than revision.\(^5\) This section on revisions deals only with substantive or verbal variants since accidentals (i.e. spelling and punctuation variants) have been ignored in the collation of the texts. It is not my intention to refer to each and every

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\(^1\) i. II.

\(^2\) i. I; i. III; i. V; i. VI; i. VIII; i. X; i. XI; i. XIII; ii. II. The second versions printed in the 2nd edition of *Odes on Several Subjects* (1760) is intermediary between the 1st edition of *Odes on Several Subjects* (1745) and the final version of Dyson's edition of the *Works* (1772a), copy-text for this edition. Generally most revision occurs between 1745 and 1760. For complete list of sigla used in this edition see p. lix.

\(^3\) i. XVIII; ii. VII; ii. X; ii. XI.

\(^4\) i. IX, "To Curio" is the ode cut from "An Epistle to Curio". Significant changes are discussed on pp. xx-xxi and p. lvi.

\(^5\) i. XII, "To Sir Francis Henry Drake, Baronet". The two versions of this poem as discussed on pp.xxvi are in essence two poems on somewhat similar themes.
variant, nor to deal exhaustively with the variant forms of the fourteen odes discussed — either approach would be tedious and not particularly rewarding. I rather propose to suggest categories of revision, citing examples, and discussing relevant points.

1. Correction of errors. I have found only two instances of correction of compositorial errors in the odes. In i. VI. 17-18, 1772a reads:

Come, Chearfulness, triumphant fair,
Shine through the hovering cloud of care:

1745 agrees with this reading while 1760 reads Since. Again in i. XI. 46, 1772a and 1745 agree in "While yet to think is in thy power". 1760 reads drink.

2. Anglicising revisions. There is little doubt of Akenside's patriotism in the odes which touch upon the subject. Whether it increased with age is difficult to judge but there are instances in which revised poems show a stronger concern with things English. A simple case is i. VIII. 1, 10, 19-20, where farewell replaces the French adieu of 1745 in both 1760 and 1772a. In another example, i. VI. 150, "Pursues the light of Grecian laws" (1745, 1760) becomes "Traceth the source of Albion's laws" (1772a).

3. Generalising revisions. Some of Akenside's early attempts

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6 E. A. J. Honigmann in his The Stability of Shakespeare's Text, (London: Edward Arnold, 1965), pp. 64-77, discusses ten categories of authorial revision. I am indebted to this treatise for suggesting several types of revision in Akenside.

7 This occurs in "To Curio", i. IX, as previously mentioned on pp. xxxi.
are more minute and particular than Neo-classic conventions allowed and in revision his writing was more general and less pointed. Two instances of this revision concern his criticism of other poets. In 1745 he wrote "But flies from ruins and from graves", i. i. 34, a fairly specific reference to Blair's "The Grave". Graves becomes tombs in 1760 and 1772a. In i. vi. 93-94, 1745 reads:

Let melancholy's plaintive tongue
Instruct the nightly shades of X--;

Line 94 is altered to Repeat what later bards have sung (1760, 1772a).

4. Revision to achieve decorum. In the eighteenth century, the average poet was unaware of his common humanity with the poor<sup>8</sup> and Akenside revised to remove a slip of this nature in i. ii. 25-30. This section was absent in the earliest version of the ode (1772)<sup>9</sup> and in the second version (1745) reads as follows:

While mute and shrinking with her fears,
Each blast the cottage-matron hears
As o'er the hearth she sits alone:
At morn her bridegroom went abroad,
The night is dark and deep the road;
She sighs and wishes him at home.

This form shows the terror of the wife at the effects of nature and also provides good contrast with the "city's busy throngs" who sit and drink by roaring fires to dispel the winter's gloom. The revised version in 1760 and 1772a is a less sympathetic response to the country folk and

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<sup>8</sup> Sutherland, p. 97.

<sup>9</sup> This first version of the ode lacks four stanzas found in the three later forms. These are III; VIII; IX; X, the stanzas which in general place human activities of friendship, joy, and love in the ode. The later versions show a reliance on Horace's i. IX which the first does not, and it is not unreasonable to suppose that Akenside wrote the first version, then in accordance with the Horatian model, rewrote and added the pertinent stanzas.
their plight, as well as being a milder less effective form:

Meantime perhaps with tender fears
Some village-dame the curfew hears,
While round the hearth her children play:
At morn their father went abroad;
The moon is sunk and deep the road;
She sighs, and wonders at his stay.

5. Changes in classical allusions. Akenside was not always content with his classical references and not infrequently altered them. For example, Dione (1745, 1760) becomes Olympia (1772a) in all the odes which refer to her. I take this to be a change of reference from a specific character to a more general symbol of ancient Greece. Possibly it conforms to the general-over-particular bias of the age, or perhaps it seeks to prevent biographical reading of his poetry. The change from Lucinda (1745) to Eudora (1760, 1772a) in i. II. 84, may be another instance of the latter.

In i. VI. 147, Dyson is referred to as Agis (1745, 1760). According to The Oxford Classical Dictionary which lists Agis II, III, and IV, neither of the three is a flattering character to which a poet might liken his friend and patron. In revising for 1772a, Akenside changes the name to that of the Syracusan mime writer, Sophron.

Occasionally revision eliminates classical allusion:

O fair, O chaste, be still with me
From such profaner discord free:
While I frequent thy tuneful shade,
No frantic shouts of Thracian dames,
No Satyra fierce with savage flames

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10 i. X. 11; i. XI. 66; i. XIII. 107.
11 Agis II, non constructive as a statesman; Agis III, died bravely while leading a Greek revolt against Alexander; Agis IV, a high-minded but unrealistic leader.
Thy pleasing accents shall invade.

i. XIII. 65-70, 1745

becomes:

O fair, o chaste, be still with me
From such opprobious discord free:
While I frequent thy tuneful shade,
No frantic shout from Thracian dame,
No Satyr's dire incestuous flame
Shall e'er the sacred haunt invade.

1760

and finally reads:

O fair, o chaste, thy echoing shade
May no foul discord here invade:
Nor let thy strings one accent move,
Except what earth's untroubled ear
'Mid all her social tribes may hear,
And heaven's unerring throne approve.

1772a

Conversely, classical allusions may be added as in:

Adieu the grave, pacific air,
Safe from the flitting mountain-breeze;
The marshy levels, lank and bare,
Sacred from furrows, hills or trees:
Adieu each mantling, fragrant flood,
Untaught to murmur or to flow:

i. VIII. 10-15, 1745

which appear in 1760 and 1772a as:

Farewell the grave, pacific air,
Where never mountain zephyr blew;
The marshy levels lank and bare,
Which Pan, which Ceres never knew;
The Naiads, with obscene attire,
Urging in vain their urns to flow;

6. Revision to expand a reference. This is extremely rare
but occurs in i. i. 4. Horace (1745) becomes o master of the Latin
lyre, (1760, 1772a).

7. Change of opinion. Two examples of this sort have
previously been cited by Akenside's biographers.12 Akenside, in his

12 Bucke, pp. 140-41, for example.
youth, was a staunch republican and although he remained so, his
fervor may have faded, as witnessed in i. VIII. 16-28. 1745 reads:

I go where freedom in the streets is known,
And tells a monarch on his throne,
Tells him he reigns, he lives but by her voice.

In 1760 and 1772a these lines become:

I go where liberty to all is known,
And tells a monarch on his throne,
He reigns not but by her preserving voice.

A similar change is seen in i. XVIII. 131-34. 1748a and 1748b read:

But here, where Freedom's equal Throne
To all her valiant Sons is known;
Where All direct the Sword she wears,
And Each, the Power that rules him, shares;

In this instance, line 133 is modified in 1772a to Where all are
conscious of her cares.

Akenside also appears to have changed his opinion about women.

This is shown in i. XI. 15-21. 1745 reads:

True, where the Muses, where the pow'rs
Of softer wisdom, easier wit,
Assist the Graces and the Hours
To render beauty's praise compleat,
The fair may then perhaps impart
Each finer sense, each winning art,
And more than schools adorn the manly heart.

These lines become in 1760 and 1772a:

Yet thou hast read in tuneful lays,
And heard from many a zealouse breast,
The pleasing tale of beauty's praise
In wisdom's lofty language dress'd;
Of beauty powerful to impart
Each finer sense, each comlier art,
And sooth and polish man's ungentle heart.

In the first version, women are ennobled by being granted their charms
from Muses, Graces, and Hours. In the rewritten passage, such charms
are conferred upon them by men and their stories — a lesser tribute.
One last example of change of opinion must suffice. In i. VIII. 64-65, 1745 and 1760 read:

To ASHLEY'S wisdom, or to HAMDEN'S arms,
Thee, Freedom, I rejoin, and bless thy genuine flame,

In 1772a To ASHLEY'S wisdom becomes To Somers' counsels. It may be that Akenside wished to link political figures together, or, alternatively, that he was disenchanted with Shaftesbury at this time. When he rewrote "The Pleasures of Imagination" making it "The Pleasures of the Imagination" (which is unfinished), he omitted the section on ridicule as a test of truth which he had found in Shaftesbury's Characteristics and had used in the earlier version.

8. Indifferent variants. Many of the revisions fall into this category; the sense is not appreciably changed, nor is the expression heightened significantly:

Sweet murmurer! may no rude storm
This hospitable scene deform, i. I. 13-14, 1760, 1772a

In 1745, hospitable reads pleasurable.

What god, in whispers from the wood,
Bids every thought be kind?

Thought reads heart in 1745.

This indifferent revision, at times, goes through three stages.

In i. III. 10-11, 1772a reads:

Like one that holds a nobler chase,
You try the tender loss to bear,

In 1745, try the tender loss reads seem the lady's loss, and in 1760 it reads seem the tender loss.

Other trivial variants occur as well. In (1745) becomes on in "Who founds on discord beauty's reign", i. VI. 135, 1760, 1772a.
Or/ nor and which/ that are interchanged so frequently, that citing references would be tedious.

9. Substitution of synonyms. This is quite common in Akenside's revisions, as it is in many poets. "The substitution of single words, especially of synonyms, gives the author his best opportunity of introducing improvements without too much waste of time and effort."\(^{13}\) A synonym may be used for alliteration as in "But most exert thy pleasing power" i. VI. 145, 1760, 1772a. Pleasing reads genial in 1765. It can remove assonance and provide alliteration as in i. IX. 47-48:

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In vain with friendship's flattering name
Thy passion veils its inward shame;
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In 1765 veils read masks.

A synonym can also be used to remove alliteration as in the only variant in ii. X. 48-9:

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Who did with free adventurous love
Such pagaents from his tomb remove.
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Pagaents reads trophies in 1766.

10. Transposition of words. This may be effective as in i. V. 23, where 1772a and 1760 read "Fancy malignant strives to dress" giving, with the Miltonic word order, slower reading, hence greater stress, than the way in which the words first appear—"Malignant fancy longs to dress" (1765).

On the other hand, transposition may make no difference as in:

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By thee with flowers their board is crown'd,
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\(^{13}\) Honigmann, p. 64.
With songs from thee their walks resound;
   i. VI. 69-70, 1772a

By thee their board with flow'rs is crown'd,
By thee with songs their walks resound,
   1745

With flow'rs their board by thee is crown'd,
From thee with songs their walks resound;
   1760

11. Substitution of similar looking words is fairly common.
   Or if the nymph her audience deign,
   Debase the story of his pain
   i. VI. 77-78, 1772a

1745 reads Shames the soft story; this is tightened into Disgrace the story (1760) which looks similar to the final version Debase the story. Another example of this is in i. II. 9-10. The earliest version of this ode reads:

       The afflicted Indian hides his head,
       Nor dares the blaze of noon behold.
       1779

This becomes in 1745:

       The panting Indian hides his head,
       And oft the approach of eve explores.

In the later forms, explores appears as implores (1760, 1772a).

Cognates are very common learn'd/learnt i. III. 6; confess'd/confest i. X. 23; ye/you i. XIII. 28-29; sank/sunk i. XVIII. 160.

Singular/plural variations occur as in garments drop i. V. 5,
1745 which is altered to garment drops (1760, 1772a); again the hostile forms i. VI. 137, 1745 becomes each hostile form (1760, 1772a).

12. Revisions which are worse than the original are not common but occasionally do occur. In 1772a "He asks a clue for nature's ways", i. VI. 119, is an improvement on the first attempt "He pants to traverse nature's ways" (1745) but perhaps less successful than the
intermediate "Fain would he search out nature's ways" (1760). In i. XVIII. 152, the earliest version reads "Whose Lays the Soul to noblest Functions move" (1743a, 1748b) less sibilant than "Whose lays the soul with noblest passions move" (1772a).

13. Like other authors, Akenside at times revised, then went back to the first expression chosen. In 1745 he wrote "The bitter hemlock's baneful juice" (i. I. 41). This became (1760) "The bitter hemlock's deadly juice" and finally appeared as "The insipid nightshade's baneful juice" (1772a). Again both first and last versions of i. V. 20, 1745 and 1772a read "But each ingenious deed of love" while the intermediate form (1760) reads spontaneous for ingenious.

14. Effective readings replace inept ones not infrequently in the revisions. Such improvements occur for a variety of reasons, and perhaps one example of each will suffice.

A stronger expression is gained by use of personification in "But leaves with scorn to envy's use" i. I. 40, 1772a and 1760 in which envy replaces the less striking others! (1745). Calling The Sun of the earliest version of i. II. 2, 1779 THE radiant ruler of the year i. II. 1, 1745, 1760, and 1772a gives an example of eighteenth century circumlocution.

Some revisions correct such as when speaking of "the Muse" he writes (1760 and 1772a) "I hail'd the fair immortal guest" i. X. 24. Fair immortal replaces bright, ethereal in 1745, a description more suitable to Miltonic angels than a classical muse.

A revision may tighten structure with a word as in replacing but urge (1779 and 1745) with promote (1760 and 1772a) in "Could mortal
vows promote thy speed", i. II. 42. Again, structure may be tightened
by a change in grammar as in i. III. 1-3, 1745:

   INDEED, my PHEDRA, if to find
   That gold a female's vow can gain,
   If this had e'er disturb'd your mind,

which becomes in 1760 and 1772a:

   INDEED, my Phedria, if to find
   That wealth can female wishes gain
   Had e'er disturb'd your thoughtful mind,

Revisions sometimes make images more concrete as in the replacing
of shades (1745) with groves (1772a and 1760) in:

   Where all the bright mysterious dreams,
   Of haunted groves and tuneful streams,
   i. X. 7-8

A static effect can be replaced by a more natural scene. This
is seen in the revision from:

   AMID the garden's fragrance laid,
   Where yonder lime's behold their shade
   Along the glassy stream,
   i. I. 1-3., 1745

to the later version of 1760 and 1772a:

   ON yonder verdant hilloc laid,
   Where oaks and elms, a friendly shade,
   O'erlook the falling stream,

Dramatic immediacy is gained by changing description to questions
as in i. III. 12-14. 1745 and 1766 read:

   Perhaps your heart bely'd your tongue,
   And thinks my censure mighty wrong
   To count it such a slight affair.

1772a reads:

   Does not your heart renounce your tongue?
   Seems not my censure strangely wrong
   To count it such a slight affair?

Occasionally revisions gain strength by repetition. In i. X. 22,
1745 reads "The Muse, th' inspiring Muse returns". This becomes (1760) "And now the' inspiring Muse returns". The final revision reads "The Muse, the Muse herself returns" (1772a).

Some revisions seek sonority and replace annoying alliteration. In i. XI. 26-28, 1745 reads:

Go, while the pleasing, peaceful scene
   Becomes her voice, becomes her mien,
   Sweet as her smiles, and as her brow serene.

In revision it becomes:

Go, while the golden light serene,
   The grove, the lawn, the soften'd scene
   Becomes the presence of the rural queen.

1760, 1772a

This then is a sampling of the revisions of Akenside's odes. Some of them arise from his struggle with the form of the classical ode and with the achieving of an appropriate diction. Many of them are of a kind familiar in the work of other poets who habitually revise their work. All of them provide, in varying degrees, evidence for the student of literature which an editor should make it his business to recover and present.
Dear Sir,

[Handwritten text in a cursive script, illegible content]

With great respect I remain your obedient Servant,

P.S. I hoped to have been able to write you more fully. My health is not so good as it was, and I have been much engaged in my business. I hope to write you soon.

Philadelphia, May 21, 1765.

[Handwritten signature]
TEXTUAL INTRODUCTION

Editorial theory in recent years has become increasingly aware of and concerned with the phenomenon of authorial revision and the consequent existence of multiple authoritative versions of a given work.¹ It has usually been the practice in such cases to choose as the most authoritative text the version containing the author's final revisions. Yet earlier versions may also have interest and importance and should not be ignored in the preparation of a critical edition; to omit earlier versions deprives the reader of much information, valuable to the student of literature, concerning the manner in which the author composed and how he achieved his final form.

This edition presents a critical text of thirty-four complete odes and one fragment by Mark Akenside, M.D. — all that exist of the two books, each to contain twenty odes, which he had planned. The basis of the text for thirty-two odes and the fragment is Jeremiah Dyson's quarto edition of The Poems of Mark Akenside, M.D. (1772), ²


² According to John Francis Norton, A Critical Edition of "The Pleasures of Imagination" by Mark Akenside, Diss. Univ. of Pennsylvania 1967, p. 108, the quarto was edited by Dyson and printed by William Bowyer. A copy of this edition was then used as copy-text for the octavo edition of the same year. For sigla used in this edition, see p. 11x.
published two years after the poet’s death. Of this collection, seventeen odes, including the fragment, had not been previously published; the remaining sixteen had been printed before, both singly and in collection, but in varying forms. Dyson’s text presents the final revised versions that were prepared by Akenside for publication; Dyson’s ordering of the odes and his division into Books I and II is followed. Of the two remaining odes, here printed in "Odes, Attributed to Akenside", the first has as copy-text The Gentleman’s Magazine, 9 (March, 1739), 153 and the second, John Garnett’s edition of The Works of Mark Akenside, M.D. (New Brunswick, New Jersey, 1808), II, 135.

3 Haupt, p. 65, says that Akenside made Dyson his "universal legatee and executor" in his will dated December 6, 1767, and proved on July 9, 1770.

4 This ode is attributed to Akenside by Haupt, p. 22. Another ode, untitled, and beginning "Hail, Melancholy! gloomy power", in The Gentleman’s Magazine 9 (November, 1739), 599, is suggested by Alexander Dyce in his The Poetical Works of Mark Akenside in the Aldine Edition of the British Poets (London: William Pickering, 1835), p. xlii. to be by Akenside. I have rejected it because it is of the 'graveyard school', a genre which Akenside detested. See p. xiii.

5 This ode, in a fair copy of Akenside’s hand, is extant in the Huntington Library. In the manuscript it is entitled "An Ode, July, 1740" but Garnett gives it the title "To Cordelia". According to Haupt, p. 42 n., a hand not Akenside’s and possibly Garnett’s has written "From Mr. Israel Wilkes: never printed." In Garnett’s edition as well, the text of a stanza of "Against Suspicion", Book i. Ode V, is printed. A footnote says that the stanza was found in a copy presented by Akenside. The only other ode extant in manuscript is a version of "To Sir Francis Henry Drake, Baronet" Book i. Ode XII. This ode was printed by Ralph M. Williams in "Two Unpublished Odes by Mark Akenside", Modern Language Notes, 57 (Dec., 1942), 629–631. According to Williams, the ode is in a fair copy of Akenside’s hand and written in Dyson’s own copy of his friend’s works. The volume was formerly in the libraries of Charles J. Groves of Boston and Charles L. Dana; it was sold on Nov. 6, 1940 by the Parke-Bernet Galleries, 30 East 57th St., New York, and listed in their catalogue 225, p. 2.
The sixteen odes printed in their revised forms in 1772 and previously published show variation both in the extent of revision, which ranges from slight to complete rewriting, and in the number of variant states involved—from two to four. The apparatus of this text has been designed to show all authorial revision involved. In the collations absence of punctuation is indicated by a caret (^) and a swung dash (~) shows a word or phrase repeated from the lemma. I have not burdened the apparatus with readings from later derivative editions, for in general these differ little from the copy-text. Where they do differ, they exhibit deterioration of the text as, for example, a Glasgow edition of 1783 which in following Odes on Several Subjects (1745) prints "anxious" for "noxious" Ode I. 39 and "motive" for "votive" Ode V. 87 (in the present edition, i. I. 39 and i. VI. 87 (app.))

Accidental features, spelling, punctuation, italics and capitalization are of interest, though confusing, in dealing with the editions prior to 1772. Since I have ignored accidentals in the collations and followed closely the practice of copy-texts some brief discussion of these features may prove helpful.

Ten of the odes appear in Odes on Several Subjects (1745). These are in the order of that edition but with the numbers of the present work: Book i. Ode I "Allusion to HORACE" retitled "Preface"; Book i. Ode II "ON the WINTER-SOLSTICE, M.D.CC.XL."; Book i. Ode V

6 "Odes on Several Subjects. By Dr. Akinside", Select Poems (Glasgow: Andrew Foulis, 1783)


These same ten odes appear again, much revised, in Odes on Several Subjects (1760). The order is as in the 1745 edition, but five titles are changed as listed above.

1745 shows inconsistent use of capitalization of names (eg. AURORA, Hermes) and at times begins personified nouns with capitals (eg. Pow'r, Genius). Elision is always marked by apostrophe ('). The edition is less punctuated and more heavily footnoted than the copy-text. Stanzas are unnumbered.

1760 ignores capitalization of names and only occasionally initially capitalizes personified nouns. Elision is always marked by 'Jonsonian apostrophus' (eg. pow'r). The text uses 'i' and 'o' for 'I' and 'O'. Punctuation follows that of 1745 but footnotes are less frequent. Stanzas are numbered. Where the two agree in readings against the copy-text, but differ in accidentals, the apparatus records the accidentals of the first edition cited.

Book i. Ode II also appeared in an earlier version, in Johnson's edition (1779). It was entitled "ODE For the WINTER SOLSTICE, Dec. 11, 1740". No authority is given for the text. In accidentals it differs
from copy-text only in initial capitalization of personified nouns.

Book i. Ode IX "To Curio" appeared as "AN EPISTLE TO CURIO" (1744), a poem of 348 lines. The "Epistle" shows initial capitalization of all nouns, elision marked by apostrophe ('), italics used for all proper nouns and for emphasis, and full capitalization for CURIO in the text.

The printing of the "Ode" with the "Epistle" in the apparatus poses difficulties in presentation not encountered in other odes. The "Ode" consists of 160 lines and the "Epistle" 348. 103 lines are common to both forms, having been taken from the earlier version with moderate, little, or no change. In most instances, however, it was possible to print corresponding passages on one page, but in the case of lines 107 to 130 of the "Ode" and lines 260 to 306 of the "Epistle" this proved impossible because of the repositioning of sections. For example, lines 107 to 113 of the "Ode" correspond to lines 264 to 275 of the "Epistle"; lines 115 to 120 of the "Ode" to 301 to 306 of the "Epistle"; and lines 121 to 130 to lines 283 to 289. In this case the verses of the "Ode" appear on page 52 with those of the "Epistle" in the apparatus printed on the following page (53).

Book i. Ode XII occurs in two versions. The version printed in the apparatus is called "Ode to Sir Francis-Henry Drake, Bar January, M.DCC. XLIX. O.S.". It was printed first by Williams and is designated 'W'. It differs little from copy-text in accidentals except in use of the ampersand (&) in all instances.

8 Williams, Ralph, pp. 626-29.
Book i. Ode XVIII appeared as "AN ODE To the Right Honourable
THE EARL of HUNTINGDON" (1748). A capital begins every noun, proper
nouns are occasionally italicized, at times a whole word is fully
capitalized (eg. HASTINGS, THEE), and the ampersand (&) is used in
one very long line. Punctuation does not differ in frequency from the
copy-text.

Book ii. Ode VII "To the Right Reverend Benjamin Lord Bishop
of Winchester" and Ode VIII [untitled] appeared first in Dodsley's
Collection of Poems by Several Hands (1758) designated 'D'.
Accidentals are in general similar to those of copy-text.

Book ii. Ode X appeared as "AN ODE TO THE LATE THOMAS EDWARDS,
Esq; Written in the Year M.DCC.LI." (1766). The edition differs from
the copy-text in using complete capitalization for proper nouns and in
inconsistent full capitalization of certain words (eg. MUSE, Muse).

Book ii. Ode XI "AN ODE TO THE Country Gentlemen of ENGLAND"
was published in two editions in 1758 (1758a and 1758b). It differs
only from the copy-text in use of italics for emphasis and in being
slightly less punctuated.

9 Williams, Iolo, p. 92, says that there are several variants of this
work. The first "has signature A3 misprinted B2 and no catchword on
p. 16." [Thus in the original; p. 16 should read p. 20.] I have called
this variant '1748a'. In other copies, he reports that A3 is misprinted
A2 and that the catchword on p. 16 has been printed. The copy I have
seen, has A3 misprinted A2, but the catchword is still missing. I have
designated it '1748b'.

10 Akenside's works in this collection comprise pp. 1-36, vol. VI. This
section is mounted on quarto paper in a larger collection of his works
under the title "Hymn to the Naiads" (and other poems) (c. 1765). British
Museum Catalogue Number C 108, g. 22. (11) in which it is designated
pp. 1-36 of an unidentified book.
The orthography of the several editions exhibits some variation. In spelling as in typography I have followed the copy-texts with no attempt to standardise such forms as "honour" / "honor"; "achievement" / "atchievement"; and "inchant" / "enchant".

All departures from copy-texts are recorded except in certain categories of silent correction. These silent alterations are as follows: use of 'i' and 'o' has been changed to 'I' and 'O'. Long s (\(\text{s}\)) has been modernized to 's'. The display capital (occurring only in 1744) is not retained and its disappearance has been accompanied by the reduction to lower case of the capital letter which accompanies it. Short (—) and long dashes (—) have been standardized to long (—).

Apostrophe (') to mark elision is only used to denote elision of 'e' in 'ed' endings in the major copy-text. Possessive pronoun 'its' is printed both as 'its' and 'it's' as in the copy-text. Aken-side's notes have been retained and are indicated by asterick (*), sword (¶), double plus (‡), and plus signs (+). If brief they are centred below the textual apparatus. My own notes are indicated by superscript numbers, also below the textual notes. In the variant form of the ode "To Sir Francis Henry Drake, Baronet" I am indebted to the notes of Ralph M. Williams. 11

11 Williams, Ralph, pp. 626-628.

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Single works:

1744 = An Epistle to Curio. 1744.

1748a = An Ode to the Right Honourable the Earl of Huntingdon. State 1. 1748.

1748b = An Ode to the Right Honourable the Earl of Huntingdon. State 2. 1748.


1766 = An Ode to the Late Thomas Edwards, Esq., Written in the Year M.DCC.LI. 1766.

Collections:

1745 = Odes on Several Subjects. 1st edition. 1745.

1760 = Odes on Several Subjects. 2nd edition. 1760.

1772a = Works. Quarto, edited by Jeremiah Dyson. 1772.


Selections:


Periodical publications:


The following ODES were written at very distant intervals, and with a view to very different manners of expression and versification. The author pretends chiefly to the merit of endeavouring to be correct, and of carefully attending to the best models. From what the ancients have left of this kind, perhaps the ODE may be allow'd the most amiable species of poetry; but certainly there is none which in modern languages has been generally attempted with so little success. For the perfection of lyric poetry depends, beyond that of any other, on the beauty of words and the gracefulness of numbers; in both which respects the ancients had infinite advantages above us. A consideration which will alleviate the author's disappointment, if he too should be found to have miscarried.
ADVERTISEMEN'T

TO

THE POEMS OF MARK AKENSIDE, M. D. 1772.

This Volume contains a complete Collection of the poems of the late Dr. Akenside, either reprinted from the original Editions, or faithfully published from Copies which had been prepared by himself for publication.

That the principal Poem should appear in so disadvantageous a state, may require some explanation. The first publication of it was at a very early part of the Author's life. That it wanted Revision and Correction, he was sufficiently sensible; but so quick was the demand for several successive republications, that in any of the intervals to have completed the whole of his Corrections was utterly impossible; and yet to have gone on from time to time making farther Improvements in every new Edition would (he thought) have had the appearance at least of abusing the favor of the Public. He chose therefore to continue for some time reprinting it without alteration, and to forbear publishing any Corrections or Improvements until he should be able at once to give them to the Public complete. And with this view, he went on for several years to review and correct the Poem at his leisure; till at length he found the task grow so much upon his hands, that, despairing of ever being able to execute it sufficiently to his own satisfaction, he abandoned the purpose of correcting, and resolved to write the Poem over anew upon a somewhat different and enlarged Plan. And in the execution of this Design he had made a considerable Progress. What Reason there may be to regret that he did not live to execute the whole of it, will best appear from the perusal of the Plan itself, as stated in the General Argument, and of the
Parts which he had executed, and which are here published. For the Person, to whom he intrusted the Disposal of his Papers, would have thought himself wanting, as well to the Service of the Public, as to the Fame of his Friend, if he had not produced as much of the Work as appeared to have been prepared for publication. In this light he considered the entire first and second Books, of which a few Copies had been printed for the use only of the Author and certain Friends: also a very considerable part of the third Book, which had been transcribed in order to its being printed in the same manner: and to these is added the Introduction to a subsequent Book, which in the Manuscript is called the Fourth, and which appears to have been composed at the time when the Author intended to comprize the whole in Four Books; but which, as he afterwards determined to distribute the Poem into more Books, might perhaps more properly be called the Last Book. And this is all that is executed of the new work, which although it appeared to the Editor too valuable, even in its imperfect State, to be withheld from the Public, yet (he conceives) takes in by much too small a part of the original Poem to supply its place, and to supersede the re-publication of it. For which reason both the Poems are inserted in this collection.

Of Odes the Author had designed to make up Two Books, consisting of twenty Odes each, including the several Odes which he had before published at different times.

The Hymn to the Naiads is reprinted from the sixth Volume of Dodsley's Miscellanies, with a few Corrections and the addition of some Notes.
To the Inscriptions taken from the same Volume three new Inscriptions are added; the last of which is the only instance wherein a liberty has been taken of inserting any thing in this Collection, which did not appear to have been intended by the Author for publication; among whose papers no Copy of this was found, but it is printed from a Copy which he had many years since given to the Editor.

The Author of these Poems was born at Newcastle upon Tyne, on the 9th Day of November 1721. He was educated at the Grammar School at Newcastle, and at the Universities of Edinburgh and Leyden, at the latter of which he took his Degree of Doctor in Physic. He was afterwards admitted by Mandamus to the Degree of Doctor in Physic in the University of Cambridge: elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, and one of the Physicians of St. Thomas's Hospital: and upon the Establishment of the Queen's Household, appointed one of the Physicians to Her Majesty. He died of a putrid Fever, on the 23d Day of June 1770, and is buried in the Parish Church of St. James, Westminster.
ODES, BOOK THE FIRST.
ODE I.

PREFACE.

I.
ON yonder verdant hilloc laid,
Where oaks and elms, a friendly shade,
O'erlook the falling stream,
O master of the Latin lyre,
Awhile with thee will I retire
From summer's noontide beam.

II.
And, lo, within my lonely bower,
The industrious bee from many a flower
Collects her balmy dews:
"For me," she sings, "the gems are born,
"For me their silken robe adorn,
"Their fragrant breath diffuse."

ODE I. PREFACE. 1772a 1745, 1760, 1772b Title: PREFACE. 1760, 1772a, 1772b: Allusion to HORACE. and motto 'Ego, apis Matina More, mod-oque, &c. Lib. iv. Od. ii.' 1745 1-12 1745 reads

[I.]
AMID the garden's fragrance laid,
Where yonder limes behold their shade
Along the glassy stream,
With HORACE and his tuneful ease
I'll rest from crowds, and care's disease,
And summer's piercing beam.

[II.]
Behold the busy, wand'ring BEE:
From bloom to bloom, from tree to tree
She sweeps mellifluous dews;
For her the silken gems arise,
For her display their shining dyes,
Their balmy breath diffuse.
III.
Sweet murmurer: may no rude storm
This hospitable scene deform,
Nor check thy gladsome toils; 15
Still may the buds unsullied spring,
Still showers and sunshine court thy wing
To these ambrosial spoils.

IV.
Nor shall my Muse hereafter fail
Her fellow-labourer thee to hail; 20
And lucky be the strains!
For long ago did nature frame
Your seasons and your arts the same,
Your pleasures and your pains.

V.
Like thee, in lowly, sylvan scenes, 25
On river-banks and flowery greens
My Muse delighted plays;
Nor through the desart of the air,
Though swans or eagles triumph there,
With fond ambition strays.

Delights my vagrant song;
Nor strives by soaring high in air,
Tho' swans and eagles triumph there,
To draw the giddy throng.
VI.
Nor where the boding raven chaunts,
Nor near the owl's unhallow'd haunts
Will she her cares imploy;
But flies from ruins and from tombs,
From superstition's horrid glooms,
To day-light and to joy.

VII.
Nor will she tempt the barren waste;
Nor deigns the lurking strength to taste
Of any noxious thing;
But leaves with scorn to envy's use
The insipid nightshade's baneful juice,
The nettle's sordid sting.

VIII.
From all which nature fairest knows,
The vernal blooms, the summer rose,
She draws her blameless wealth;
And, when the generous task is done,
She consecrates a double boon,
To pleasure and to health.

31-32 1745 reads
Nor where the raven, where the owl
By night their hateful orgies howl,
ODE II.

ON THE WINTER-SOLSTICE, M.D.CC.XL.

I.

THE radiant ruler of the year
At length his wintry goal attains;
Soon to reverse the long career,
And northward bend his steady reins.
Now, piercing half Potosi's height,
Prone rush the fiery floods of light
Ripening the mountain's silver stores:
While, in some cavern's horrid shade,
The panting Indian hides his head,
And oft the approach of eve implores.

---

1-10 1779 reads

I.

NOW to the utmost southern goal
The Sun has trac'd his annual way,
And backward now prepares to roll,
And bless the North with earlier day.
Prone on Potosi's lofty brow,
Floods of sublimer splendor flow,
Ripening the latent seeds of gold,
Whilst, panting in the lonely shade,
The afflicted Indian hides his head,
Nor dares the blaze of noon behold.

---

1 The mountain in Bolivia.
II.
But lo, on this deserted coast
How pale the sun! how thick the air!
Musterling his storms, a sordid host,
Lo, winter desolates the year.
The fields resign their latest bloom;
No more the breezes waft perfume,
No more the streams in music roll:
But snows fall dark, or rains resound;
And, while great nature mourns around,
Her griefs infect the human soul.

11-20 1779 reads

II.
But lo' on this deserted coast,
How faint the light! how chill the air!'
Lo' arm'd with whirlwind, hail, and frost,
Fierce winter desolates the year.
The fields resign their cheerful bloom;
No more the breezes breathe perfume;
No more the warbling waters roll:
Desarts of snow fatigue the eye;
Successive tempests bloat the sky,
And gloomy damps oppress the soul.

12 pale the sun] faint the light: 1745 : faint the sun: 1760 13 Muster-
ing...host] Lo, arm'd with whirlwind, hail and frost, 1745, 1760 14 Lo, winter] Fierce winter 1745, 1760 15 resign their latest bloom] resign their cheerfull bloom; 1745 : have lost their latest bloom; 1760 17-20 1745 reads

No more the warbling waters roll:
Desarts of snow fatigue the eye,
Black storms involve the louring sky,
And gloomy damps oppress the soul.

18 snows fall dark, or rains] unrelenting storms 1760
III.
Hence the loud city's busy throngs
Urge the warm bowl and splendid fire:
 Harmonious dances, festive songs
Against the spiteful heaven conspire.
Meantime perhaps with tender fears
Some village-dame the curfew hears,
While round the hearth her children play:
At morn their father went abroad;
The moon is sunk and deep the road;
She sighs, and wonders at his stay.

IV.
But thou, my lyre, awake, arise,
And hail the sun's returning force:
Even now he climbs the northern skies,
And health and hope attend his course.

21-30 omitted 1779

31-34 1779 reads

III. (IV.)
But let my drooping genius rise,
And hail the sun's remotest ray:
Now, now he climbs the northern skies,
To-morrow nearer than to-day.

21 Hence the loud city's busy] Now thro' the town promiscuous 1745
22 splendid] ruddy 1745 24-30 1745 reads

To charm the midnight hours conspire.
While mute and shrinking with her fears,
Each blast the cottage-matron hears
As o'er the hearth she sits alone:
At morn her bridegroom went abroad,
The night is dark and deep the road;
She sighs and wishes him at home.

32 returning force] remotest ray; 1745 33 Even now] Now, now 1745
34 And...course] To-morrow nearer than to-day. 1745
Then louder howl the aërial waste,
Be earth with keener cold imbrac'd,
Yet gentle hours advance their wing;
And fancy, mocking winter's might,
With flowers and dews and streaming light
Already decks the newborn spring.

V.
O fountain of the golden day,
Could mortal vows promote thy speed,
How soon before thy vernal ray
Should each unkindly damp recede!

35-44 1779 reads

Then, louder howl the stormy waste,
Be sand and ocean worse defac'd,
Yet brighter hours are on the wing,
And fancy, through the wintery gloom,
Radiant with dews and flowers in bloom,
Already hails the emerging Spring.

IV. (v.)
O fountain of the golden day,
Could mortal vows but urge thy speed,
How soon before the vernal ray,
Should each unkindly damp recede!

35 aërial] stormy 1745, 1760
36 Be...imbrac'd] Be land and ocean worse defac'd, 1745: Be grove or meadow worse defac'd, 1760
37 Yet...wing] Yet brighter hours are on the wing; 1745: Yet gentler hours advance their wing; 1760
38-40 1745 reads

And fancy thro' the wintry glooms,
All fresh with dews and opening blooms,
Already hails th' emerging spring.

39 streaming] radiant 1760
42 promote] but urge 1745
How soon each hovering tempest fly,
Whose stores for mischief arm the sky,
Prompt on our heads to burst amain,
To rend the forest from the steep,
Or, thundering o'er the Baltic deep,
To whelm the merchant's hopes of gain!

VI.
But let not man's unequal views
Presume o'er nature and her laws:
'Tis his with grateful joy to use
The indulgence of the sovran cause;
Secure that health and beauty springs
Through this majestic frame of things,
Beyond what he can reach to know;

45-57 1779 reads

How soon each tempest hovering fly,
That now, fermenting, loads the sky,
Prompt on our heads to burst amain,
To rend the forest from the steep,
And, thundering o'er the Baltic deep,
To 'whelm the merchant's hopes of gain.'

V. (VI.)
But let not man's imperfect views,
Presume to tax wise Nature's laws:
'Tis his with silent joy to use
The indulgence of the sovereign cause;
Secure that from the whole of things
Beauty and good consummate springs,
Beyond what he can reach to know,

46 Whose...sky] That now fermenting loads the sky, 1745: Which now wide-
threatening loads the sky, 1760 52 o'er] on 1745, 1760
And that heaven's all-subduing will,
With good the progeny of ill,
Attempereth every state below.

VII.
How pleasing wears the wintry night,
Spent with the old illustrious dead.
While, by the taper's trembling light,
I seem those awful scenes to tread
Where chiefs or legislators lie,
Whose triumphs move before my eye
In arms and antique pomp array'd;
While now I taste the Ionian song,
Now bend to Plato's godlike tongue
Resounding through the olive shade.

58-70 1779 reads

And that the Providence of heaven
Has some peculiar blessing given
To each allotted state below.

VI. (VII.)
Ev'n now how sweet the wintry night
Spent with the old illustrious dead:
While, by the taper's trembling light,
I seem the awful course to tread;
Where chiefs and legislators lie,
Whose triumphs move before my eye,
With every laurel fresh display'd:
While, charm'd, I rove in classic song,
Or bend to freedom's fearless tongue,
Or walk the academic shade.

60 Attempereth] Attempers 1745 64 scenes] courts 1745 65 or] and 1745, 1760 67 In...array'd] With every laurel Tresh-display'd;
1745, 1760 68 now] charm'd 1745 69 Now] Or 1745
VIII.
But should some cheerful, equal friend
Bid leave the studious page awhile,
Let mirth on wisdom then attend,
And social ease on learned toil.
Then while, at love's uncareful shrine,
Each dictates to the god of wine
Her name whom all his hopes obey,
What flattering dreams each bosom warm,
While absence, heightening every charm,
Invokes the slow-returning May:

IX.
May, thou delight of heaven and earth,
When will thy genial star arise?

71-100 omitted 1779
71 But...friend] But if the gay, well-natur'd friend 1745 : But should
some more familiar friend 1760 72 Bid] Bids 1745 73-80 1745 reads

Then easier joys the soul unbend
And teach the brow a softer smile;
Then while the genial glass is paid
By each to her, that fairest maid,
Whose radiant eyes his hopes obey,
What lucky vows his bosom warm:
While absence heightens every charm,
And love invokes returning MAY.

75 love's uncareful shrine] Love's unspotted shrine, 1760 78 flattering
dreams] pleasing dreams 1760 79 absence, heightening] absence
heightens 1760 80 Invokes...May] Impatient for returning May. 1760
82 genial star] happy morn 1745

2 Vega of the constellation Lyra. It rises in the spring and is the
brightest summer star. Sir James Jeans, The Stars in their Courses, (C.U.P.,
1931), pp. 167-8. I am grateful to Mrs. Dora Russell who directed me to this
information.
The auspicious morn, which gives thee birth,
Shall bring Eudora to my eyes.
Within her sylvan haunt behold,
As in the happy garden old,
She moves like that primeval fair:
Thither, ye silver-sounding lyres,
Ye tender smiles, ye chaste desires,
Fond hope and mutual faith, repair.

X.
And if believing love can read
His better omens in her eye,
Then shall my fears, O charming maid,
And every pain of absence die:
Then shall my jocund harp, attun'd
To thy true ear, with sweeter sound
Pursue the free Horatian song:

83-90 1745 reads

When the dear place which gave her birth
Restore LUCINDA to my eyes?
There while she walks the wonted grove,
The seat of music and of love,
Bright as the ONE primeval fair,
Thither, ye silver-sounding lyres,
Thither, gay smiles and young desires,
Chast hope and mutual faith repair.

89 tender smiles] decent smiles, 1760 90 Fond hope] Kind hope, 1760
92 His better omens] The wonted softness 1745: His wonted omens 1760
95-96 1745 reads

Then offer to thy name attun'd,
And rising to diviner sound,

97 Pursue] I'll wake 1745
Old Tyne shall listen to my tale,
And echo, down the bordering vale,
The liquid melody prolong.

ODE III.

TO A FRIEND, UNSUCCESSFUL IN LOVE.

I.
INDEED, my Phaedria, if to find
That wealth can female wishes gain
Had e'er disturb'd your thoughtful mind,
Or cost one serious moment's pain,
I should have said that all the rules,
You learn'd of moralists and schools,
Were very useless, very vain.

II.
Yet I perhaps mistake the case—
Say, though with this heroic air,
Like one that holds a nobler chace,
You try the tender loss to bear,

ODE III. TO A FRIEND, UNSUCCESSFUL IN LOVE. 1772a 1745, 1760, 1772b
Title: TO A FRIEND, &c. 1760, 1772a, 1772b: TO A GENTLEMAN whose MISTRESS had married an Old Man. 1745 2-3 1745 and 1760 read

That gold a female's vow can gain,
If this had e'er disturb'd your mind,

6 learn'd] learnt 1745 9 Say,) And 1745, 1760 11 try the tender loss] seem the lady's loss 1745: seem the tender loss 1760
Does not your heart renounce your tongue?
Seems not my censure strangely wrong
To count it such a slight affair?

III.
When Hesper gilds the shaded sky,
Oft as you seek the well-known grove,
Methinks I see you cast your eye
Back to the morning scenes of love:
Each pleasing word you heard her say,
Her gentle look, her graceful way,
Again your struggling fancy move.

IV.
Then tell me, is your soul intire?
Does wisdom calmly hold her throne?
Then can you question each desire,
Bid this remain, and that begone?
No tear half-starting from your eye?
No kindling blush you know not why?
No stealing sigh, nor stifled groan?

V.
Away with this unmanly mood:
See where the hoary churl appears,

12 Does...tongue] Perhaps your heart belied your tongue, 1745, 1760
13 Seem not] And thinks 1745, 1760 strangely] mighty 1745, 1760
14 affair?] ~ 1745, 1760 16 oft as you seek] Slow-wand'ring thro'
1745 19-20 1745 reads

Her tender look, her graceful way,
The pretty things you heard her say,

21 Again] Afresh 1745: Once more 1760 28 sigh, nor] sigh, or 1745
Whose hand hath seiz'd the favorite good
Which you reserv'd for happier years:
While, side by side, the blushing maid
Shrinks from his visage, half-afraid,
Spite of the sickly joy she wears.

VI.
Ye guardian powers of love and fame,
This chaste, harmonious pair behold;
And thus reward the generous flame
Of all who barter vows for gold.
0 bloom of youth, 0 tender charms
Well-buried in a dotard's arms!
0 equal price of beauty sold:

VII.
Cease then to gaze with looks of love:
Bid her adieu, the venal fair:
Unworthy she your bliss to prove;
Then wherefore should she prove your care?
No: lay your myrtle garland down;
And let awhile the willow's crown
With luckier omens bind your hair.
VIII.
O just escap'd the faithless main,
Though driven unwilling on the land;
To guide your favor'd steps again,
Behold your better genius stand:
Where truth revolves her page divine,
Where virtue leads to honor's shrine,
Behold, he lifts his awful hand.

IX.
Fix but on these your ruling aim,
And time, the sire of manly care,
Will fancy's dazzling colors tame
A soberer dress will beauty wear:
Then shall esteem by knowledge led
Inthrone within your heart and head
Some happier love, some truer fair.

54 Where...divine] Where PLATO'S olive courts your eye, 1745, 1760
Where...shrine] Where HAMDEN'S laurel blooms on high, 1745: Where Ham-
den's laurel shoots on high, 1760
55 Behold...hand] He lifts his heav-
'n-directed hand. 1745
56 Behold...hand] He lifts his heav-
'n-directed hand. 1745
57 Behold...hand] He lifts his heav-
n-directed hand. 1745
When these are blended on your brow,
The willow will be nam'd no more;
Or if that love-deserted bough
The pitying, laughing girls deplore,
Yet still shall I most freely swear,
Your dress has much a better air
Than all that ever bridegroom wore.
ODE IV.

AFFECTED INDIFFERENCE.

TO THE SAME.

I.
YES: you contemn the perjur'd maid
Who all your favorite hopes betray'd:
Nor, though her heart should home return,
Her tuneful tongue it's falsehood mourn,
Her winning eyes your faith implore,
Would you her hand receive again,
Or once dissemble your disdain,
Or listen to the syren's theme,
Or stoop to love: since now esteem
And confidence, and friendship, is no more.

II.
Yet tell me, Phaedria, tell me why,
When summoning your pride you try
To meet her looks with cool neglect,
Or cross her walk with slight respect,
(For so is falsehood best repaid)
Whence do your cheeks indignant glow?
Why is your struggling tongue so slow?
What means that darkness on your brow?
As if with all her broken vow
You meant the fair apostate to upbraid?
ODE V.

AGAINST SUSPICION.

I.

Oh fly! 'tis dire Suspicion's mien;
And, meditating plagues unseen,
The sorceress hither bends:
Behold her torch in gall imbrued:
Behold—her garment drops with blood
Of lovers and of friends.

II.

Fly far! Already in your eyes
I see a pale suffusion rise;
And soon through every vein,
Soon will her secret venom spread,
And all your heart and all your head
Imbibe the potent stain.

III.

Then many a demon will she raise
To vex your sleep, to haunt your ways;
While gleams of lost delight
Raise the dark tempest of the brain,
As lightning shines across the main
Through whirlwinds and through night.
IV.
No more can faith or candor move;
But each ingenuous deed of love,
Which reason would applaud,
Now, smiling o'er her dark distress,
Fancy malignant strives to dress
Like injury and fraud.

V.
Farewell to virtue's peaceful times:
Soon will you stoop to act the crimes
Which thus you stoop to fear:
Guilt follows guilt: and where the train
Begins with wrongs of such a stain,
What horrors form the rear!

VI.
'Tis thus to work her baleful power,
Suspicion waits the sullen hour
Of fretfulness and strife,
When care the infirm bosom wrings,
Or Eurus waves his murky wings
To damp the seats of life.

For soon you'll 1745  27 Which thus you] You thus can 1745  28-29 1745 reads

When vice begins her ugly train
With wrongs of such unmanly stain,

35 waves his murky] shakes his gloomy 1745
VII.
But come, for sake the scene unblest'd
Which first beheld your faithful breast
To groundless fears a prey:
Come, where with my prevailing lyre
The skies, the streams, the groves conspire
To charm your doubts away.

VIII.
Thron'd in the sun's descending car,
What power unseen diffuseth far
This tenderness of mind?
What genius smiles on yonder flood?
What god, in whispers from the wood,
Bids every thought be kind?

IX.
O thou, whate'er thy awful name,
Whose wisdom our untoward frame
With social love restrains;
Thou, who by fair affection's ties
Giv'st us to double all our joys
And half disarm our pains;

[IX.]
O thou, whate'er thy awful name,
Whose breath awak'd th' immortal flame
That moves my active veins;
Thou, who by fair affection's ties
Hast doubled all my future joys,
And half disarm'd my pains;
Let universal candor still,
Clear as yon heaven-reflecting rill,
Preserve my open mind;
Nor this nor that man's crooked ways
One sordid doubt within me raise
To injure human kind.

ODE VI.

HYMN TO CHEERFULNESS.

HOW thick the shades of evening close!
How pale the sky with weight ofsnows!
Haste, light the tapers, urge the fire,
And bid the joyless day retire.

1808 contains an extra stanza inserted between stanzas IX. and X. It reads

If far from DYSON and from me
Suspicion took, by thy decree,
Her everlasting flight;
If firm on virtue's ample base
Thy parent hand had deign'd to raise
Our friendship's honour'd height;

58 ways] views 1745 59 One...raise] One mean or cruel doubt infuse 1745
— Alas, in vain I try within
To brighten the dejected scene,
While roused by grief these fiery pains
Tear the frail texture of my veins;
While winter’s voice, that storms around,
And yon deep death-bell’s groaning sound
Renew my mind’s oppressive gloom,
Till starting horror shakes the room.

Is there in nature no kind power
To sooth affliction’s lonely hour?
To blunt the edge of dire disease,
And teach these wintry shades to please?
Come, Cheerfulness, triumphant fair,
Shine through the hovering cloud of care:
0 sweet of language, mild of mien,
0 virtue’s friend and pleasure’s queen,
Asswage the flames that burn my breast,
Compose my jarring thoughts to rest;
And while thy gracious gifts I feel,
My song shall all thy praise reveal.

As once ('twas in Astrea’s reign)
The vernal powers renew’d their train,
It happen'd that immortal Love
Was ranging through the spheres above,
And downward hither cast his eye
The year's returning pomp to spy.
He saw the radiant god of day,
Waft in his car the rosy May;
The fragrant Airs and genial Hours
Were shedding round him dews and flowers;
Before his wheels Aurora pass'd,
And Hesper's golden lamp was last.
But, fairest of the blooming throng,
When Health majestic mov'd along,
Delighted to survey below
The joys which from her presence flow,
While earth inliven'd hears her voice,
And swains, and flocks, and fields rejoice;
Then mighty Love her charms confess'd,
And soon his vows inclin'd her breast,
And, known from that auspicious morn,
The pleasing Cheerfulness was born.

Thou, Cheerfulness, by heaven design'd
To sway the movements of the mind.
Whatever fretful passion springs,
Whatever wayward fortune brings
To disarrange the power within,
And strain the musical machine;
Thou, Goddess, thy atempering hand
Doth each discordant string command,
Refines the soft, and swells the strong;
And, joining nature's general song,
Through many a varying tone unfolds
The harmony of human souls.

Fair guardian of domestic life,
Kind banisher of homebred strife,
Nor sullen lip, nor taunting eye
Deforms the scene where thou art by:
No sickening husband damns the hour
Which bound his joys to female power;
No pining mother weeps the cares

49-56 1745 reads
Whatever fretful passion springs,
Whatever chance or nature brings
To strain the tuneful poize within,
And disarrange the sweet machine,
Thou, Goddess, with a master-hand
Dost each atemper'd key command,
Refine the soft and swell the strong,
Till all is concord, all is song.

51 power] powers 1760  57-58 omitted 1745  60 Kind] Best 1745  62
Deforms] Deform 1745  64 Which] That 1745
Which parents waste on thankless heirs:
The officious daughters pleas'd attend;
The brother adds the name of friend:
By thee with flowers their board is crown'd,
With songs from thee their walks resound;
And morn with welcome lustre shines,
And evening unperceiv'd declines.

Is there a youth, whose anxious heart
Labors with love's unpitied smart?
Though now he stray by rills and bowers,
And weeping waste the lonely hours,
Or if the nymph her audience deign,
Debase the story of his pain
With slavish looks, discolor'd eyes,
And accents faltering into sighs;
Yet thou, auspicious power, with ease
Can'st yield him happier arts to please,

66 Which] That 1745 thankful 1745 hopeless 1745 68 adds the name of] rises to the 1745, 1760 69 By...crown'd] By thee their board with flow'rs is crown'd, 1745: With flowers their board by thee is crown'd, 1760 70 With...resound] By thee with songs their walks resound, 1745: From thee with songs their walks resound; 1760 71-72 1745 reads

By thee their sprightly mornings shine,
And evening-hours in peace decline.

73 Is...heart] Behold the youth, whose trembling heart 1745: Is there a youth, whose trembling heart 1760 74 Labors] Beats high 1745, 1760 smart?] ~ ; 1745 75 stray] strays 1745 76 waste] wears 1745

78 Debase the story] Shames the soft story 1745: Disgrace the story 1760
Inform his mien with manlier charms,
Instrucf his tongue with nobler arms,
With more commanding passion move,
And teach the dignity of love.

Friend to the Muse and all her train,
For thee I court the Muse again:
The Muse for thee may well exert
Her pomp, her charms, her fondest art,
Who owes to thee that pleasing sway
Which earth and peopled heaven obey.
Let melancholy's plaintive tongue
Repeat what later bards have sung;
But thine was Homer's ancient might,
And thine victorious Pindar's flight:
Thy hand each Lesbian wreathe attir'd:
Thy lip Sicilian reeds inspir'd:

83 Inform his mien with] Exalt his mien to 1745, 1760 89-98 1745 reads

And may the votive lay disclose
How much to thy fair aid she owes!
See, when thy touch reveals her mine,
How pure the stores of fancy shine!
Hark, when thy breath her song impells,
How full the tuneful current swells!
Let melancholy's plaintive tongue
Instrucf the nightly strains of Y——;
But thine was HOMER'S ancient might,
And thine victorious PINDAR'S flight:
Thy spirit lent the glad perfume
Whence yet the flowers of Teos bloom;
Whence yet from Tibur's Sabine vale
Delicious blows the inlivening gale,
While Horace calls thy sportive choir,
Heroes and nymphs, around his lyre.

But see where yonder pensive sage
(A prey perhaps to fortune's rage,
Perhaps by tender griefs oppress'd,
Or glooms congenial to his breast)
Retires in desart scenes to dwell,
And bids the joyless world farewell.

Alone he treads the autumnal shade,
Alone beneath the mountain laid
He sees the nightly damps ascend,
And gathering storms aloft impend;

He hears the neighbouring surges roll,

99-104 1745 reads

Thy myrtles crown'd the * Lesbian meads;
Thy voice awak'ed 't* Sicilian reeds;
Thy breath perfumes the † Teian rose,
And Tibur's vine spontaneous flows
While HORACE wantons in thy quire;
The gods and heroes of the lyre.

105 But...sage] See where the pale, the sick'ning sage 1745 ascend] arise 1745 114 aloft impend] involve the skies; 1745

* ALCEUS and SAPPHO. † THEOCRITUS. ‡ ANACREON.
And raging thunders shake the pole:
Then, struck by every object round,
And stunn'd by every horrid sound,
He asks a clue for nature's ways;
But evil haunts him through the maze:
He sees ten thousand demons rise
To wield the empire of the skies,
And chance and fate assume the rod,
And malice blot the throne of God.
— O thou, whose pleasing power I sing,
Thy lenient influence hither bring;
Compose the storm, dispell the gloom,
Till nature wear her wonted bloom,
Till fields and shades their sweets exhale,
And music swell each opening gale:
Then o'er his breast thy softness pour,
And let him learn the timely hour
To trace the world's benignant laws,
And judge of that presiding cause
Who founds on discord beauty's reign,
Converts to pleasure every pain,
Subdues each hostile form to rest,
And bids the universe be bless'd.

119 He...ways] He pants to traverse nature's ways: 1745: Fain would he search out nature's ways; 1760 120 But evil haunts] His evils haunt 1745 121 sees] views 1745 124 blot] blots 1745 135 on] in 1745 137 each hostile form] the hostile forms 1745 138 bless'd] blest 1745
O thou, whose pleasing power I sing,
If right I touch the votive string,
If equal praise I yield thy name,
Still govern thou thy poet's flame;
Still with the Muse my bosom share,
And sooth to peace intruding care.
But most exert thy pleasing power
On friendship's consecrated hour;
And while my Sophron points the road
To godlike wisdom's calm abode,
Or warm in freedom's ancient cause
Traceth the source of Albion's laws,
Add thou o'er all the generous toil
The light of thy unclouded smile.
But, if by fortune's stubborn sway
From him and friendship torn away,
I court the Muse's healing spell
For griefs that still with absence dwell,
Do thou conduct my fancy's dreams
To such indulgent placid themes,

Pursues the light of Grecian laws,
Attend, and grace our gen'rous toils
With all thy garlands, all thy smiles.

indulgent placid] indulgent, tender 1745, 1760
As just the struggling breast may cheer
And just suspend the starting tear,
Yet leave that sacred sense of woe
Which none but friends and lovers know.

ODE VII.
ON THE USE OF POETRY.

I.
NOT for themselves did human kind
Contrive the parts by heaven assign'd
On life's wide scene to play:
Not Scipio's force, nor Caesar's skill
Can conquer glory's arduous hill,
If fortune close the way

II.
Yet still the self- depending soul,
Though last and least in fortune's roll,
His proper sphere commands;
And knows what nature's seal bestow'd,
And sees, before the throne of God,
The rank in which he stands.

161 sacred] charming 1745
III.
Who train'd by laws the future age,
Who rescu'd nations from the rage
Of partial, factious power,
My heart with distant homage views;
Content if thou, celestial Muse,
Did'st rule my natal hour.

IV.
Nor far beneath the hero's feet,
Nor from the legislator's seat
Stands far remote the bard,
Though not with public terrors crown'd,
Yet wider shall his rule be found,
More lasting his award.

V.
Lycurgus fashion'd Sparta's fame,
And Pompey to the Roman name
Gave universal sway:
Where are they?—Homer's reverend page
Holds empire to the thirtieth age,
And tongues and climes obey.

VI.
And thus when William's acts divine
No longer shall from Bourbon's line
Draw one vindictive vow;
When Sidney shall with Cato rest,
And Russel move the patriot's breast
No more than Brutus now;
VII.
Yet then shall Shakespeare's powerful art
O'er every passion, every heart,
Confirm his awful throne:
Tyrants shall bow before his laws;
And freedom's, glory's, virtue's cause,
Their dread assertor own.

ODE VIII.
ON LEAVING HOLLAND.

I. 1.
FAREWELL to Leyden's lonely bound,
The Belgian Muse's sober seat;
Where dealing frugal gifts around
To all the favorites at her feet,
She trains the body's bulky frame
For passive, persevering toils;
And lest, from any prouder aim,
The daring mind should scorn her homely spoils,
She breathes maternal fogs to damp its restless flame.
I.2.
Farewell the grave, pacific air,
Where never mountain zepher blew:
The marshy levels lank and bare,
Which Pan, which Ceres never knew:
The Naiads, with obscene attire,
Urging in vain their urns to flow;
While round them chant the croaking choir,
And haply soothe some lover's prudent woe,
Or prompt some restive bard and modulate his lyre.

I.3.
Farewell, ye nymphs, whom sober care of gain
Snatch'd in your cradles from the god of love:
She render'd all his boasted arrows vain;
And all his gifts did he in spite remove.

10-22 1745 reads

[I.2.]
Adieu the grave, pacific air,
Safe from the flitting mountain-breeze;
The marshy levels lank and bare,
Sacred from furrows, hills or trees:
Adieu each mantling, fragrant flood,
Untaught to murmur or to flow:
Adieu the * music of the mud,
That sooths at eve the patient lover's woe,
And wakes to sprightlier thoughts the painful poet's blood.

[I.3.]
With looks so frosty, and with steps so tame,
Ye careful nymphs, ye household things, adieu;
Not once ye taught me love's or friendship's flame,
And where is he that ever taught it you?

14 with] in 1760 15 in vain their urns] their lazy urns 1760

* The Frogs.
Ye too, the slow-ey'd fathers of the land,
With whom dominion steals from hand to hand,
Unown'd, undignify'd by public choice,
I go where liberty to all is known,
And tells a monarch on his throne,
He reigns not but by her preserving voice.

II. 1.
O my lov'd England, when with thee
Shall I sit down, to part no more?
Far from this pale, discolour'd sea,
That sleeps upon the reedy shore,
When shall I plough thy azure tide?
When on thy hills the flocks admire,
Like mountain snows; till down their side
I trace the village and the sacred spire,
While bowers and copses green the golden slope divide?
II.2.
Ye nymphs who guard the pathless grove,
Ye blue-ey'd sisters of the streams,
With whom I wont at morn to rove,
With whom at noon I talk'd in dreams;
O! take me to your haunts again,
The rocky spring, the greenwood glade;
To guide my lonely footsteps deign,
To prompt my slumbers in the murmuring shade,

And sooth my vacant ear with many an airy strain.

II.3.
And thou, my faithful harp, no longer mourn
Thy drooping master's inauspicious hand:
Now brighter skies and fresher gales return,
Now fairer maids thy melody demand.
Daughters of Albion, listen to my lyre!
O Phoebus, guardian of the Ionian choir,
 Why sounds not mine harmonious as thy own,
When all the virgin deities above

With Venus and with Juno move

In concert round the Olympian father's throne?

38 who] that 1745 44 omitted 1745 48 inauspicious] unpropitious 1745 51-52 1745 reads

Daughters of ALBION, guard your votive lyre:
0 blooming god of Thespia's laurell'd quire,
III.1.
Thee too, protectress of my lays,
Elate with whose majestic call
Above degenerate Latium's praise,
Above the slavish boast of Gaul,
I dare from impious thrones reclaim,
And wanton sloth's ignoble charms,
The honors of a poet's name
To Somers' counsels, or to Hamden's arms,
Thee, freedom, I rejoin, and bless thy genuine flame.

III.2.
Great citizen of Albion. Thee
Heroic valour still attends,
And useful science pleas'd to see
How art her studious toil extends.
While truth, diffusing from on high
A lustre unconfin'd as day,
Fills and commands the public eye;
Till, pierc'd and sinking by her powerful ray,
Tame faith and monkish awe, like nightly demons, fly.

III.3.
Hence the whole land the patriot's ardour shares:

Hence dread religion dwells with social joy;

59 degenerate Latium's] the soft Italian's 1745, 1760 60 boast]
wreaths 1745 62 ignoble] luxurious 1745 64 Somers' counsels]
* ASHLEY'S wisdom, 1745, 1760 74 faith] Sloth 1745 75 the
whole] all the 1745 76 dwells] smiles 1745

* The Earl of SHAFTESBURY.
And holy passions and unsullied cares,
In youth, in age, domestic life imploy.
O fair Britannia, hail!—With partial love
The tribes of men their native seats approve,
Unjust and hostile to each foreign fame:
But when for generous minds and manly laws
A nation holds her prime applause,
There public zeal shall all reproof disclaim.

ODE IX.

TO CURIO. MDCCXLIV.

77-78 1745 reads

Hence the free bosom's softest, loveliest cares,
Each graceful scene of private life imploy.

81 each] a 1745  82 for] from 1745  84 shall all reproof disclaim]
deries the test of blame. 1745

ODE IX. TO CURIO. MDCCXLIV. 1772a  1744, 1772b  Title: TO CURIO. &c.
1772a, 1772b : 'AN EPISODE TO CURIO,' and motto 'Neque tam uliscendi causa
dixi, quam ut & in presens sceleratos cives timore ab impugnanda patria
detinerem; & in posterum, documentum statuerem, nequis talem amantium
vellet imitari. TULL.' and ARGUMENT. 'CATUS SCRIBONIUS CURIO was a Roman 5
Senator of great Spirit, Eloquence and Popularity. By Extract a Plebeian;
but ennobled by the Offices his Family had sustain'd. His Education had
form'd him to the most active Zeal for the legal Constitution of his Coun-
try, which he afterwards publicly exerted with great Applause under the
Direction of CICERO, against the Insolence and Usurpations of the first
Triumvirate. This Character he maintain'd even after the pernicious De-
signs of JULIUS CESAR began to appear. But at last, unhappily for himself
and his Country, the Difficulties into which his ungovernable Passions
had plunged him, gave that artful Man an Opportunity of seducing him to
betray the Cause of Liberty at its very Crisis. So that he is justly
chard'd by the Roman Historians, as the chief Incendiary of CESAR'S Ambi-
tion, and Author of all the public Ruin that ensued.' 1744.
I.

THRICE hath the spring beheld thy faded fame
Since I exulting grasp'd the tuneful shell:
Eager through endless years to sound thy name,
Proud that my memory with thine should dwell,
How hast thou stain'd the splendor of my choice:
Those godlike forms which hover'd round thy voice,
Laws, freedom, glory, whither are they flown?
What can I now of thee to time report,
Save thy fond country made thy impious sport,
Her fortune and her hope the victims of thy own?

Thrice has the Spring beheld thy faded Fame, (1)
And the fourth Winter rises on thy Shame,
Since I exulting grasp'd the votive Shell, (2)
In Sounds of Triumph all thy Praise to tell;
Blest could my Skill thro' Ages make thee shine,
And proud to mix my Memory with thine. (4)
But now the Cause that wak'd my Song before,
With Praise, with Triumph crowns the Toil no more.
If to the glorious Man, whose faithful Cares,
Nor quell'd by Malice, nor relax'd by Years,
Had aw'd Ambition's wild audacious Hate,
And dragg'd at length Corruption to her Fate;
If every Tongue its large Applauses ow'd,
And well-earn'd Laurels every Muse bestow'd,
If public Justice urg'd the high Reward,
And Freedom smil'd on the devoted Bard;
Say then, to him whose Levity or Lust
Laid all a People's gen'rous Hopes in Dust;
Who taught Ambition firmer Heights of Pow'r,
And sav'd Corruption at her hopeless Hour;
Does not each Tongue its Execrations owe?
Shall not each Muse a Wreath of Shame bestow?
And public Justice sanctify th' Award?
And Freedom's Hand protect th' impartial Bard?

Yet long reluctant I forbore thy Name,
Long watch'd thy Virtue like a dying Flame,
Hung o'er each glimm'ring Spark with anxious Eyes,
And wish'd and hop'd the Light again would rise.
II.

There are with eyes unmov'd and reckless heart
Who saw thee from thy summit fall thus low,
Who deem'd thy arm extended but to dart
The public vengeance on thy private foe.
But, spite of every gloss of envious minds,
The owl-ey'd race whom virtue's lustre blinds,
Who sagely prove that each man hath his price,
I still believ'd thy aim from blemish free,
I yet, even yet, believe it, spite of thee
And all thy painted pleas to greatness and to vice.

But since thy Guilt still more intire appears,
Since no Art hides, no Supposition clears;
Since vengeful Slander now too sinks her Blast,
And the first Rage of Party-hate is past;
Calm as the Judge of Truth, at length I come
To weigh thy Merits and pronounce thy Doom:
So may my Trust from all Reproach be free,
And Earth and Time confirm the fair Decree.

There are who say they view'd without Amaze
The sad Reverse of all thy former Praise;
That thro' the Pageants of a Patriot's Name,
They pierc'd the Foulness of thy secret Aim;
Or deem'd thy Arm exalted but to throw
The public Thunder on a private Foe.
But I, whose Soul consented to thy Cause,
Who felt thy Genius stamp its own Applause,
Who saw the Spirits of each glorious Age
Move in thy Bosom and direct thy Rage;
I scorn'd th' ungen'rous Gloss of slavish Minds,
The Owl-ey'd Race, whom Virtue's Lustre blinds.
Spite of the Learned in the Ways of Vice,
And all who prove that each Man has his Price,
I still believ'd thy End was just and free;
And yet, ev'n yet believe it—spite of thee.
Ev'n tho' thy Mouth impure has dar'd disclaim,
Urg'd by the wretched Impotence of Shame,
Whatever filial Cares thy Zeal had paid
To Laws infirm and Liberty decay'd;
Has begg'dd Ambition to forgive the Show;
III.
"Thou didst not dream of liberty decay'd,
"Nor wish to make her guardian laws more strong:
"But the rash many, first by thee misled,
"Bore thee at length unwillingly along."

Rise from your sad abodes, ye curst of old
For faith deserted or for cities sold,
Own here one untry'd, unexampled, deed;
One mystery of shame from Curio learn,
To beg the infamy he did not earn,
And scape in guilt's disguise from virtue's offer'd mead.

1744 reads
Has told Corruption thou wert ne'er her Foe;
Has boasted in thy Country's awful Ear,
Her gross Delusion when she held thee dear;
How tame she follow'd thy tempestuous Call,
And heard the pompous Tales, and trusted all—
Rise from your sad Abodes, ye Curst of old
For Laws subverted and for Cities sold:
Paint all the noblest Trophies of your Guilt,
The Oaths you perjur'd and the Blood you spilt;
Yet must you one untempted Vileness own,
One dreadful Palm reserv'd for him alone;
With studied Arts his Country's Praise to spurn,
To beg the Infamy he did not earn,
To challenge Hate when Honour was his Due,
And plead his Crimes where all his Virtue knew.

Do Robes of State the guarded Heart inclose
From each fair Feeling human Nature knows?
Can pompous Titles stun th' enchanted Ear
To all that Reason, all that Sense would hear?
Else could'st thou e'er desert thy sacred Post,
In such unthankful Baseness to be lost?
Else could'st thou wed the Emptiness of Vice,
And yield thy Glories at an Idiot's Price?

When they who loud for Liberty and Laws,
In doubtful Times had fought their Country's Cause,
When now of Conquest and Dominion sure,
They sought alone to hold their Fruits secure;
When taught by these, Oppression hid the Face
IV.

For saw we not that dangerous power avow'd
Whom freedom of hath found her mortal bane,
Whom public wisdom ever strove to exclude,
And but with blushes suffereth in her train?
Corruption vaunted her bewitching spoils,
O'er court, o'er senate, spread in pomp her toils,
And call'd herself the state's directing soul:
Till Curio, like a good magician, try'd
With eloquence and reason at his side,
By strength of holier spells the enchantress to control.

V.

Soon with thy country's hope thy fame extends:
The rescu'd merchant oft thy words resounds:
Thee and thy cause the rural hearth defends:
His bowl to thee the grateful sailor crowns:

1744 reads

To leave Corruption stronger in her Place,
By silent Spells to work the public Fate,
And taint the Vitals of the passive State,
Till healing Wisdom should avail no more,
And Freedom loathe to tread the poison'd Shore;
Then, like some guardian God that flies to save
The weary Pilgrim from an instant Grave,
Whom sleeping and secure, the guileful Snake
Steals near and nearer thro' the peaceful Brake;
Then CURIO rose to ward the public Woe,
To wake the Heedless and incite the Slow,
Against Corruption Liberty to arm,
And quell th' Enchantress by a mightier Charm.

Swift o'er the Land the fair Contagion flew,
And with thy Country's Hopes thy Honours grew.
Thee, Patriot, the Patrician Roof confess'd;
Thy pow'rful Voice the rescued Merchant bless'd;
Of thee with Awe the rural Hearth resounds;
The Bowl to thee the grateful Sailor crowns;

37 state's] states 1772a, 1772b
The learn'd recluse, with awful zeal who read
Of Grecian heroes, Roman patriots dead,
Now with like awe doth living merit scan:
While he, whom virtue in his blest retreat
Bade social ease and public passions meet,
Ascends the civil scene, and knows to be a man.

VI.
At length in view the glorious end appear'd:
We saw thy spirit thro' the senate reign;
And freedom's friends thy instant omen heard
Of laws for which their fathers bled in vain.
Wak'd in the strife the public Genius rose
More keen, more ardent from his long repose:

1744 reads

Touch'd in the sighing Shade with manlier Fires,
To trace thy Steps the love-sick Youth aspires;
The learn'd Recluse, who oft amaz'd had read
Of Grecian Heroes, Roman Patriots dead,
With new Amazement hears a living Name
Pretend to share in such forgotten Fame;
And he who, scorning Courts and Courtly Ways,
Left the same Track of these dejected Days,
The Life of nobler Ages to renew
In Virtues sacred from a Monarch's View,
Rouz'd by thy Labours from the blest Retreat,
Where social Ease and public Passions meet,
Again ascending treads the civil Scene,
To act and be a Man, as thou had'st been.

Thus by Degrees thy Cause superior grew,
And the great End appear'd at last in view:
We heard the People in thy Hopes rejoice;
We saw the Senate bending to thy Voice;
The Friends of Freedom hail'd th' approaching Reign
Of Laws for which our Fathers bled in vain;
While venal Faction, struck with new Dismay,
Shrunk at their Frown, and self-abandon'd lay.
Wak'd in the Shock, the PUBLIC GENIUS rose,
Abash'd and keener from his long Repose;
Deep through her bounds the city felt his call:
Each crouded haunt was stirr'd beneath his power,
And murmuring challeng'd the deciding hour
Of that too vast event, the hope and dread of all.

VII.
O ye good powers who look on human kind,
Instruct the mighty moments as they roll;
And watch the fleeting shapes in Curio's mind,
And steer his passions steady to the goal.

O Alfred, father of the English name,
O valiant Edward, first in civil fame,
O William, height of public virtue pure,

Bend from your radiant seats a joyful eye
Behold the sum of all your labors nigh,

Your plans of law complete, your ends of rule secure.

Sublime in ancient Pride, he rais'd the Spear
Which Slaves and Tyrants long were wont to fear:
The City felt his Call: From Man to Man,
From Street to Street the glorious Horror ran;
Each crouded Haunt was stirr'd beneath his Pow'r,
And murmuring challeng'd the deciding Hour.

Lo! the deciding Hour at last appears;
The Hour of every Freeman's Hopes and Fears!
Thou, Genius! Guardian of the Roman Name,
O ever prompt tyrannic Rage to tame!
Instruct the mighty Moments as they roll,
And guide each Movement steady to the Goal.
Ye Spirits, by whose providential Art
Succeeding Motives turn the changeful Heart,
Keep, keep the best in View to CURIO'S Mind,
And watch his Fancy and his Passions bind!
Ye Shades immortal, who, by Freedom led,
Or in the Field or on the Scaffold bled,
Bend from your radiant Seats a joyful Eye,
And view the Crown of all your Labours nigh.
VIII.

'Twas then—O shame! O soul from faith estrang'd:
O Albion oft to flattering vows a prey:

'Twas then—Thy thought what sudden frenzy chang'd?
What rushing palsy took thy strength away?
Is this the man in freedom's cause approv'd?
The man so great, so honour'd, so belov'd?
Whom the dead envy'd and the living bless'd?
This patient slave by tinsel bonds allur'd?
This wretched suitor for a boon abjur'd?

Whom those that fear'd him, scorn; that trusted him, detest?

IX.

O lost alike to action and repose!

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1744 reads

See Freedom mounting her eternal Throne!
The Sword submitted and the Laws her own:
See public Pow'r chastiz'd beneath her stands,
With Eyes intent and uncorrupted Hands:
See private Life by wisest Arts reclaim'd:
See ardent Youth to noblest Manners fram'd:
See us acquire what' er was sought by You,
If CURIO, only CURIO will be true.

'Twas then—O Shame! O Trust, how ill repaid:
O Latium oft by faithless Sons betray'd:
'Twas then—What Frenzy on thy Reason stole?
What Spells unsinew'd thy determin'd Soul?
—Is this the Man in Freedom's Cause approv'd?
The Man so great, so honour'd, so belov'd?
This patient Slave by Tinsel Chains allur'd?
This wretched Suitor for a Doon abjur'd?
This CURIO hated and despis'd by all?
Who fell himself, to work his Country's Fall?

O lost alike to Action and Repose:
Unown'd, unpitied in the worst of Woes:
With all that conscious, undissembled Pride,
With all that habit of familiar fame,
Sold to the mockery of relentless foes,
And doom'd to exhaust the dregs of life in shame,
To act with burning brow and throb'ning heart
A poor deserter's dull exploded part,
To slight the favor thou canst hope no more,
Renounce the giddy crowd, the vulgar wind,
Charge thy own lightness on thy country's mind,
And from her voice appeal to each tame foreign shore.

X.
But England's sons, to purchase thence applause,
Shall ne'er the loyalty of slaves pretend,
By courtly passions try the public cause;
Nor to the forms of rule betray the end.

O race erect! by manliest passions mov'd,

1744. reads

Sold to the Insults of a Foe defy'd:
With all that Habit of familiar Fame,
Doom'd to exhaust the Dregs of Life in Shame!
The sole sad Refuge of thy baffled Art,
To act a Statesman's dull, exploded Part,
Renounce the Praise no longer in thy Pow'r,
Display thy Virtue tho' without a Dow'r,
Contemn the giddy Crowd, the vulgar Wind,
And shut thy Eyes that others may be blind.
— Forgive me, Romans, that I bear to smile
When shameless Mouths your Majesty defile,
Paint you a thoughtless, frantic, headlong Crew,
And cast their own Impieties on you.
For witness, Freedom, to whose sacred Pow'r
My Soul was vow'd from Reason's earliest Hour,
How have I stood exulting to survey
My Country's Virtues opening in thy Ray:
How, with the Sons of every foreign Shore
The more I match'd them, honour'd hers the more:
O Race erect! whose native Strength of Soul,
Which Kings, nor Priests, nor sordid Laws controul,
The labors which to virtue stand approv'd,
Prompt with a lover's fondness to survey;
Yet, where injustice works her wilful claim,
Fierce as the flight of Jove's destroying flame,
Impatient to confront, and dreadful to repay.

Bursts the tame Round of animal Affairs,
And seeks a nobler Center for its Cares;
Intent the Laws of Life to comprehend,
And fix Dominion's Limits by its End.
Who bold and equal in their Love or Hate,
By conscious Reason judging every State,
The Man forget not, tho' in Rags he lies,
And know the Mortal thro' a Crown's Disguise:
Thence prompt alike with witty Scorn to view
Fastidious Grandeur lift his solemn Brow,
Or all awake at Pity's soft Command,
Bend the mild Ear and stretch the gracious Hand:
Thence large of Heart, from Envy far remot'd,
When public Toils to Virtue stand approv'd,
Not the young Lover fonder to admire,
Nor more indulgent the delighted Sire;
Yet high and jealous of their freeborn Name,
Fierce as the Flight of Jove's destroying Flame,
Where'er Oppression works her wanton Sway,
Proud to confront and dreadful to repay.
But if to purchase CURIO'S sage Applause,
My Country must with him renounce her Cause,
Quit with a Slave the Path a Patriot trod,
Bow the meek Knee and kiss the regal Rod;
Then still, ye Pow'rs, instruct his Tongue to rail,
Nor let his Zeal, nor let his Subject fail:
Else e'er he change the Style, bear me away
To where the [*] Gracchi, where the [†] Brutii stay!

O long rever'd and late resign'd to Shame;
If this uncourtly Page thy Notice claim
When the loud Cares of Bus'ness are withdrawn,
Nor well-drest Beggars round thy Footsteps fawn;

[*] Ver. 218. ] The two Brothers, Tiberius and Caius Gracchus lost their Lives in attempting to introduce the only Regulation that could give Stability and good Order to the Roman Republic.
XI.
These thy heart owns no longer. In their room
See the grave queen of pageants, Honor, dwell
Couch'd in thy bosom's deep tempestuous gloom
Like some grim idol in a sorcerer's cell.
Before her rites thy sickening reason flew,
Divine persuasion from thy tongue withdrew,

17/4 reads
In that still, thoughtful, solitary Hour,
When Truth exerts her unresisted Pow'r,
Breaks the false Optics ting'd with Fortune's Glare,
Unlocks the Breast and lays the Passions bare;
Then turn thy Eyes on that important Scene,
And ask thyself—if all be well within.
Where is the Heart-felt Worth and Weight of Soul,
Which Labour cou'd not stop, nor Fear control?
Where the known Dignity, the Stamp of Awe,
Which, half-abash'd, the Proud and Venal saw?
Where the calm Triumphs of an honest Cause?
Where the delightful Taste of just Applause?
Where the strong Reason, the commanding Tongue,
On which the Senate fir'd or trembling hung?
All vanish'd, all are sold—and in their Room, (101)
Couch'd in thy Bosom's deep, distracted Gloom,
See the pale Form of barb'rous Grandeur dwell,
Like some grim Idol in a Sorc'rer's Cell:
To her in Chains thy Dignity was led;
At her polluted Shrine thy Honour bled;
With blasted Weeds thy awful Brow she crown'd,
Thy pow'rful Tongue with poison'd Philters bound,
That baffled Reason straight indignant flew,
And fair Persuasion from her Seat withdrew: (106)
For now no longer Truth supports thy Cause;
No longer Glory prompts thee to Applause;
No longer Virtue breathing in thy Breast,
With all her conscious Majesty confest,
Still bright and brighter wakes th' almighty Flame
To rouse the Feeble and the Wilful tame,
And where she sees the catching Glimpses roll,
Spreads the strong Blaze and all involves the Soul;
But cold Restraints thy conscious Fancy chill,
And formal Passions mock thy struggling Will;
Or if thy Genius e'er forget his Chain,
And reach impatient at a nobler Strain,
Soon the sad Bodings of contemptuous Mirth
While laughter mock'd, or pity stole a sigh:
Can wit her tender movements rightly frame
Where the prime function of the soul is lame?
Can fancy's feeble springs the force of truth supply?

XII.
But come: 'tis time: strong destiny impends
To shut thee from the joys thou hast betray'd:
With princes fill'd, the solemn fane\(^1\) ascends,
By Infamy, the mindful demon sway'd.
There vengeful vows for guardian laws effac'd,
From nations fetter'd, and from towns laid waste,
For ever through the spacious courts resound:
There long posterity's united groan
And the sad charge of horrors not their own,
Assail the giant chiefs, and press them to the ground.

XIII.
In sight old Time, imperious judge, awaits:
Above revenge, or fear, or pity, just,
He urgeth onward to those guilty gates
The Great, the Sage, the Happy, and August.
And still he asks them of the hidden plan
Whence every treaty, every war began,
Evolves their secrets and their guilt proclaims:
And still his hands despoil them on the road
Of each vain wreath by lying bards bestow'd,
And crush their trophies huge, and raise their sculptur'd names.

Footnotes on following page.
Shoot thro' thy Breast and stab the generous Birth,
Till blind with Smart, from Truth to Frenzy lost,
And all the Tenour of thy Reason lost,
Perhaps thy Anguish drains a real Tear;
While some with Pity, some with Laughter hear.
— Can Art, alas! or Genius guide the Head,
Where Truth and Freedom from the Heart are fled?
Can lesser Wheels repeat their native Stroke,
When the prime Function of the Soul is broke?

But come, unhappy Man! thy Fates impend;
Come, quit thy Friends, if yet thou hast a Friend;
Turn from the poor Rewards of Guilt like thine,
Renounce thy Titles and thy Robes resign;
For see the Hand of Destiny display'd
To shut thee from the Joys thou hast betray'd;
See the dire Fanoe of INFAMY arise!
Dark as the Grave, and spacious as the Skies;
Where from the first of Time, thy kindred Train,
The Chiefs and Princes of th' Unjust remain.
Eternal Barriers guard the pathless Road
To warn the Wand'ter of the curtst Abode;
But prone as Whirlwinds scour the passive Sky,
The Heights surmounted, down the Steep they fly.
There black with Frowns, relentless TIME awaits,
And goads their Footsteps to the guilty Gates;
And still he asks them of their unknown Aims,
Evolves their Secrets and their Guilt proclaims;
And still his Hands despoil them on the Road
Of each vain Wreath by lying Bards bestow'd,
Break their proud Marbles, crush their festal Cars,
And rend the lawless Trophies of their Wars.
At last the Gates his potent Voice obey;
Fierce to their dark Abode he drives his Prey,
Where ever arm'd with adamantine Chains,
The watchful Demon o'er her Vassals reigns,
O'er mighty Names and Giant-Pow'rs of Lust,
The Great, the Sage, the Happy and August.[*]

No Glean of Hope their baleful Mansion cheers,
No Sound of Honour hails their unblest Ears;
But dire Reproaches from the Friend betray'd,
The childless Sire and violated Maid;
But vengeful Laws for guardian Laws effac'd,
From Towns inoslav'd and Continents laid waste;
But long Posterity's united Groan,
And the sad Charge of Horrors not their own,
For ever thro' the trembling Space resound,
And sink each impious Forehead to the Ground.

1 Flag, banner, pennant. OED.

[*] Ver. 296.] Titles which have been generally ascrib'd to the most pernicious of Men.
XIV.
Ye mighty shades, arise, give place, attend:

Here his eternal mansion Curio seeks:
— Low doth proud Wentworth to the stranger bend,
And his dire welcome hardy Clifford speaks:

"He comes, whom fate with surer arts prepar'd
"To accomplish all which we but vainly dar'd;
"Whom o'er the stubborn herd she taught to reign:
"Who sooth'd with gaudy dreams their raging power
"even to it's last irrevocable hour;

"Then baffled their rude strength, and broke them to the chain."

XV.
But ye, whom yet wise liberty inspires,

Whom for her champions o'er the world she claims,

(That household godhead whom of old your sires
Sought in the woods of Elbe and bore to Thames)

1744 reads

Ye mighty Foes of Liberty and Rest,
Give Way, do Homage to a mightier Guest!
Ye daring Spirits of the Roman Race,
See CURIO'S Toil your proudest Claims efface:
— Aw'd at the Name, [*] fierce Appius rising bends, And hardy Cinna from his Throne attends:
"He comes," they cry, "to whom the Fates assign'd
"With surer Arts to work what we design'd,
"From Year to Year the stubborn Herd to sway,
"Mouth all their Wrongs, and all their Rage obey;
"Till own'd their Guide and trusted with their Pow'r,
"He mock'd their Hopes in one decisive Hour;
"Then tir'd and yielding, led them to the Chain,
"And quench'd the Spirit we provok'd in vain."

[*] Ver. 311, 312. ] Appius Claudius the Decemvir and L. Cornelius Cinna both attempted to establish a tyrannical Dominion in Rome, and both perish'd by the Treason.
Drive ye this hostile omen far away;
Their own fell efforts on her foes repay;
Your wealth, your arts, your fame, be hers alone:
Still gird your swords to combat on her side;
Still frame your laws her generous test to abide;
And win to her defence the altar and the throne.

XVI.
Protect her from yourselves, ere yet the flood
Of golden luxury, which commerce pours,
Hath spread that selfish fierceness through your blood,
Which not her lightest discipline indures:

1744 reads

But thou, Supreme, by whose eternal Hands
Fair Liberty's heroic Empire stands;
Whose Thunders the rebellious Deep controll,
And quell the Triumphs of the Traitor's Soul,
O turn this dreadful Omen far away!
On Freedom's Foes their own Attemps repay;
Relume her sacred Fire so near supprest,
And fix her Shrine in every Roman Breast.
Tho' bold Corruption boast around the Land,
"Let Virtue, if she can, my Baits withstand!"
Tho' bolder now she urge th' accursed Claim,
Gay with her Trophies rais'd on CURIO'S Shame;
Yet some there are who scorn her impious Mirth,
Who know what Conscience and a Heart are worth.
— O Friend and Father of the Human Mind,
Whose Art for noblest Ends our Frame design'd.
If I, tho' fated to the studious Shade
Which Party-strife nor anxious Pow'r invade,
If I aspire in public Virtue's Cause,
To guide the Muses by sublimier Laws,
Do thou her own Authority impart,
And give my Numbers Entrance to the Heart.
Perhaps the Verse might rouze her smother'd Flame,
And snatch the fainting Patriot back to Fame;
Perhaps by worthy Thoughts of human Kind,
To worthy Deeds exalt the conscious Mind;
Or dash Corruption in her proud Career,
And teach her Slaves that Vice was born to fear.
Snatch from fantastic demagogues her cause:  

Dream not of Numa’s manners, Plato’s laws:  
A wiser founder, and a nobler plan,  
O sons of Alfred, were for you assign’d:  
Bring to that birthright but an equal mind,  
And no sublimer lot will fate reserve for man.

ODE X.
TO THE MUSE.

I.
QUEEN of my songs, harmonious maid,
Ah why hast thou withdrawn thy aid?
Ah why forsaken thus my breast  
With inauspicious damps oppress’d?
Where is the dread prophetic heat,  
With which my bosom wont to beat?
Where all the bright mysterious dreams  
Of haunted groves and tuneful streams,  
That woo’d my genius to divinest themes?
II.
Say, goddess, can the festal board,
Or young Olympia's form ador'd;
Say, can the pomp of promis'd fame
Relume thy faint, thy dying flame?
Or have melodious airs the power
To give one free, poetic hour?
Or, from amid the Elysian train,
The soul of Milton shall I gain,
To win thee back with some celestial strain?

III.
O powerful strain! O sacred soul!
His numbers every sense controul:
And now again my bosom burns;
The Muse, the Muse herself returns.
Such on the banks of Tyne, confess'd,
I hail'd the fair immortal guest,
When first she seal'd me for her own,
Made all her blissful treasures known,
And bade me swear to follow Her alone.

10 Say...board] Say, can the purple charms of wine, 1745 11 Olympia's
form ador'd] Dione's form divine, 1745 : Dione's form ador'd; 1760 12
Say, can the pomp] Or flutt'ring scenes 1745 14 Or have melodious]
Have soft, melodious 1745 19-20 1745 reads

0 mighty mind! O sacred flame!
My spirit kindles at his name;

21 And now again my] Again my lab'ring 1745 22 The...returns] The Muse,
th' inspiring Muse returns; 1745 : And now th' inspiring Muse returns, 1760
23 confess'd] confess 1745 24 fair immortal] bright, ethereal 1745
ODE XI.

ON LOVE, TO A FRIEND.

I.
No, foolish youth— To virtuous fame
If now thy early hopes be vow'd,
If true ambition's nobler flame
Command thy footsteps from the crowd,
Lean not to love's enchanting snare;
His songs, his words, his looks beware,
Nor join his votaries, the young and fair.

II.
By thought, by dangers, and by toils,
The wreath of just renown is worn;
Nor will ambition's awful spoils
The flowery pomp of ease adorn:
But love unbends the force of thought;
By love unmanly fears are taught;
And love's reward with gaudy sloth is bought.

III.
Yet thou hast read in tuneful lays,
And heard from many a zealous breast,

His dances, his delights beware,
Nor mingle in the band of young and fair.

12 unbends the force] dissolves the nerve 1745 14 gaudy sloth] slothful arts 1745 15-16 1745 reads

[III.]
True, where the Muses, where the pow'rs
Of softer wisdom, easier wit,
15 thou hast] have i 1760
The pleasing tale of beauty's praise
In wisdom's lofty language dress'd;
Of beauty powerful to impart
Each finer sense, each comlier art,
And sooth and polish man's ungentle heart.

IV.
If then, from love's deceit secure,
Thus far alone thy wishes tend,
Go; see the white-wing'd evening hour
On Delia's vernal walk descend:
Go, while the golden light serene,
The grove, the lawn, the soften'd scene
Becomes the presence of the rural queen.

V.
Attend, while that harmonious tongue
Each bosom, each desire commands:
Apollo's lute by Hermes strung
And touch'd by chaste Minerva's hands,

[IV.]
If then, from Love's deceit secure,
Such bliss be all thy heart intends,
Go, where the white-wing'd evening-hour
On DELIA'S vernal walk descends:
Go, while the pleasing, peaceful scene
Becomes her voice, becomes her mien,
Sweet as her smiles, and as her brow serene.
Attend, I feel a force divine,
0 Delia, win my thoughts to thine;

That half the color of thy life is mine. 35

VI.
Yet conscious of the dangerous charm,
Soon would I turn my steps away;
Nor oft provoke the lovely harm,
Nor lull my reason's watchful sway.
But thou, my friend— I hear thy sighs:
Alas, I read thy downcast eyes;

And thy tongue falters; and thy color flies.

VII.
So soon again to meet the fair?
So pensive all this absent hour?
— O yet, unlucky youth, beware,
While yet to think is in thy power.
In vain with friendship's flattering name
Thy passion veils its inward shame;

Friendship, the treacherous fuel of thy flame!

VIII.
Once, I remember, new to love,
And dreading his tyrannic chain,
I sought a gentle maid to prove
What peaceful joys in friendship reign:
Whence we forsooth might safely stand,
And pitying view the lovesick band,
And mock the winged boy's malicious hand.

IX.
Thus frequent pass'd the cloudless day,
To smiles and sweet discourse resign'd;
While I exulted to survey
One generous woman's real mind:
Till friendship soon my languid breast
Each night with unknown cares possess'd,
Dash'd my coy slumbers, or my dreams distress'd.

X.
Fool that I was— And now, even now
While thus I preach the Stoic strain,
Unless I shun Olympia's view,

52-56 1745 reads

Yet won the haughty fair to prove
What sober joys in friendship reign.
No more I sigh'd, complain'd, or swore;
The nymph's coy arts appear'd no more,
But each could laugh at what we felt before.

57 Thus...day] Well-ples'd we pass'd the cheerful day, 1745 : Thus frequent pass'd the cheerful day, 1760 58 smiles and sweet] unreserved 1745, 1760 59 While I exulted] And I incanted 1745 61 Till...breast] But soon I wonder'd what possess'd 1745 : But soon some unknown care possess'd 1760 62 Each...possess'd] Each wakeful night my anxious breast 1745, 1760 63 Dash'd...distress'd] No other friendship e'er had broke my rest 1745 : Then first did friendship e'er invade my rest. 1760 66 Olympia's] DIONE'S 1745, 1760
An hour unsays it all again.

O friend!—when love directs her eyes

To pierce where every passion lies,

Where is the firm, the cautious, or the wise?

ODE XII.

TO SIR FRANCIS HENRY DRAKE, BARONET.

I.

BEHOLD; the Balance in the sky

Swift on the wintry scale inclines:

To earthy caves the Dryads fly,

And the bare pastures Pan resigns.

W reads

1.

While by the order of the day,
Next week, the House & Speaker pray
That heaven may ne'er, at Britain's hand,
The royal martyr's life demand;
While Bentham labours much in vain
The rights of freedom to maintain
With good Saint Charles's blessed reign;

ODE XII. TO SIR FRANCIS HENRY DRAKE, BARONET. 1772a 1772b, W
Title: TO SIR FRANCIS HENRY DRAKE, &c. 1772a, 1772b: ODE to Sir Francis-
Henry Drake, 3 Bar't January, M. DCC. XLIX. O. S. W

1 The constellation Libra.

2 Perhaps James Bentham (1708-1794) the historian, although his most fam-
ous work, his history of Ely, was not begun until 1756, nor completed un-
til after Akenside's death.

3 Sir Francis Henry Drake (1723-1794), 5th Baronet, of Buckland and Nut-
well Court, Co. Devon. He was M. P. for Beeralston from 1747-1774, a seat
held previously by his father. He was actually descended from a brother
of the famous Admiral, not the Admiral himself as Akenside later implies.
Late did the farmer's fork overspread
With recent soil the twice-mown mead,
Tainting the bloom which autumn knows:
He whets the rusty coulter now,
He binds his oxen to the plough,
And wide his future harvest throws.

II.
Now, London's busy confines round,
By Kensington's imperial towers,
From Highgate's rough descent profound,
Essexian heaths, or Kentish bowers,
Where'er I pass, I see approach
Some rural statesman's eager coach
Hurried by senatorial cares:
While rural nymphs (alike, within,
Aspiring courtly praise to win)
Debate their dress, reform their airs.

III.
Say, what can now the country boast,
O Drake, thy footsteps to detain,

W reads

2.
Then, Drake, to Hampstead haste away,
Where Dyson spends with me the day:
And try if Hardinge cannot find
That fate hath just one more design'd:
Townshend is digging at his farm;
Nor would a loud promiscuous swarm
Or thee, or any of us charm.

3.
I hate the table & the treat
Where friends, beset with strangers, meet;
When peevish winds and gloomy frost
The sunshine of the temper stain?
Say, are the priests of Devon grown
Friends to this tolerating throne,
Champions for George's legal right?
Have general freedom, equal law,
Won to the glory of Nassau
Each bold Wessexian squire and knight?

IV.
I doubt it much; and guess at least
That when the day, which made us free,
Shall next return, that sacred feast
Thou better may'st observe with me.

W reads

Where prudent form the tongue restrains
From uttering what the heart contains;
While, in your own despite, your eyes
Tell how importantly you prize
The deep discourse which round you flies.

4.
But say; from orators ador'd,
From every heir to every board
From Egmont's pathos, Warren's fights,
And Nugent's tragi-comic flights,
Can'st thou an hour's attention steal
To talk with me of England's weal,
And smile at my untutor'd zeal?

4 John Perceval, 2nd Earl of Egmont (1711-1770), famous as an orator,
and Robert Nugent (1702-1788), later Earl Nugent, famous for his wit and
humor, were both leaders in the opposition at this time. Admiral Sir
Peter Warren, K. B. (1703-1752), the captor of Louisburg, had failed to
secure the governorship of New Jersey from Akenside's hero, Henry Pelham,
and so may also have been in the opposition.
With me the sulphurous treason old
A far inferior part shall hold
In that glad day's triumphal strain;
And generous William be rever'd,
Nor one untimely accent heard
Of James or his ignoble reign.

V.
Then, while the Gascon's fragrant wine
With modest cups our joy supplies,
We'll truly thank the power divine
Who bade the chief, the patriot rise;
Rise from heroic ease (the spoil
Due, for his youth's Herculean toil,
From Belgium to her saviour son)
Rise with the same unconquer'd zeal
For our Britannia's injur'd weal,
Her laws defac'd, her shrines o'erthrown.

W reads

Then, if too grave the subject grow,
(Foreboding aught we fear to know)
To bring more pleasing prospects home,
Thro' distant ages we can roam;
When Athens spurn'd the Persian chain;
When thy fam'd grandsire aw'd the main,
Or Somers' guided William's reign.

5 John Somers, Lord Somers (1651-1716), was made Lord Keeper of the Great Seal in 1693, Lord Chancellor in 1697, and held many other important posts under William III and Queen Anne.
VI.
He came. The tyrant from our shore,
Like a forbidden demon, fled;
And to eternal exile bore
Pontific rage and vassal dread.
There sunk the mouldering Gothic reign:
New years came forth, a liberal train,
Call'd by the people's great decree.
That day, my friend, let blessings crown:
— Fill, to the demigod's renown
From whom thou hast that thou art free.

VII.
Then, Drake, (for wherefore should we part
The public and the private weal?)
In vows to her who sways thy heart,
Fair health, glad fortune, will we deal.
Whether Aglaia's blooming cheek,
Or the soft ornaments that speak

W reads

6.
Thence may we turn to calmer views,
The haunts of science & the Muse;
To groves where Milton walks alone,
To Bacon's philosophic throne;
Or where those Attic themes we find,
The moral law, the almighty mind,
And man for future worlds design'd.

7.
O Drake, inspite of all the zeal
Which for the public oft we feel,
When I before the shrine of fame
Present some English patriot's name,
Or when thy nobler cares demand
How England's genius safe may stand
From usury's insatiate hand;
So eloquent in Daphne's smile,
Whether the piercing lights that fly
From the dark heaven of Myrto's eye,
Haply thy fancy then beguile.

VIII.
For so it is, thy stubborn breast,
Though touch'd by many a lighter wound,
Hath no full conquest yet confess'd,
Nor the one fatal charmer found.

While I, a true and loyal swain,
My fair Olympia's gentle reign
Through all the varying seasons own.

W reads

Yet, if blind selfishness can * foil
Both Barnard's hope & Pelham's toil,
Surely the happiest hours below,
(Which yet must from the public flow)
The hours, which most sincerely please,
Belong to private scenes like these,
To friendship & and to letter'd ease.

* The attempts to defeat the reduction of the interest of the national debt. [Akenside's note.]

6 Sir John Barnard (1685-1764), a member of Parliament for almost 40 years, proposed a plan for reducing the interest on the national debt to Walpole in March, 1737, but because of popular feeling against it, it was rejected. Upon becoming Prime Minister, Henry Pelham, however, supported the plan, and it was adopted by Parliament in November, 1749, to be put into effect by the following February 28. A pamphlet, published about the time this poem was written, entitled Considerations on the Proposals for the Reduction of the National Debt was attributed to Barnard. See the Gentleman's Magazine XIX (Dec. 1749), 568; XX (Feb. 1750), 54, 96. For all the men mentioned in this poem, see the DNB.
Her genius still my bosom warms:
No other maid for me hath charms,
Or have I eyes for her alone.

ODE XIII.

ON LYRIC POETRY.

I. 1.
ONCE more I join the Thespian choir,
And taste the inspiring fount again:
O parent of the Grecian lyre,
Admit me to thy powerful strain—
And lo, with ease my step invades
The pathless vale and opening shades,
Till now I spy her verdant seat;
And now at large I drink the sound,
While these her offspring, listening round,
By turns her melody repeat.

I. 2.
I see Anacreon smile and sing,
His silver tresses breathe perfume;
His cheek displays a second spring
Of roses taught by wine to bloom.
Away, deceitful cares, away,
And let me listen to his lay;

ODE XIII. ON LYRIC POETRY. 1772a 1745, 1760, 1772b Title: ON
LYRIC POETRY. 1745, 1760, 1772a, 1772b 4 powerful secret 1745:
hallow'd 1760
Let me the wanton pomp enjoy,
While in smooth dance the light-wing'd Hours
Lead round his lyre it's patron powers,
Kind laughter and convivial joy.

I. 3.
Broke from the fetters of his native land,
Devoting shame and vengeance to her lords,
With louder impulse and a threatening hand
The * Lesbian patriot smites the sounding chords:
Ye wretches, ye perfidious train,
Ye curs'd of gods and freeborn men,
Ye murderers of the laws,
Though now ye glory in your lust,
Though now ye tread the feeble neck in dust,
Yet Time and righteous Jove will judge your dreadful cause.

17-20 1745 reads

While flow'ry dreams my soul employ;
While turtle-wing'd the laughing hours
Lead hand in hand the festal pow'rs,
Lead youth and love, and harmless joy.

19 it's patron] the festal 1760 20 Kind...joy] The Graces, and the
Idalian boy. 1760 24 * [Lesbian patriot] † Lesbian patriot 1745

* Alcæus.

† ALÆUS of Mitylene, the capital of Lesbos, who fled from his native
city to escape the oppression of those who had inslav'd it, and wrote
against them in his exile those noble inventives which are so much
applauded by the ancient Critics.
II. 1.
But lo, to Sappho's melting airs
Descends the radiant queen of love:
She smiles, and asks what fonder cares
Her suppliant's plaintive measures move:
Why is my faithful maid distress'd?
Who, Sappho, wounds thy tender breast?
Say, flies he? — Soon he shall pursue:
Shuns he thy gifts? — He soon shall give:
Slights he thy sorrows? — He shall grieve,
And soon to all thy wishes bow.

II. 2.
But, O Melpomene, for whom
Awakes thy golden shell again?
What mortal breath shall e'er presume
To echo that unbounded strain?
Majestic in the frown of years,
Behold, the * man of Thebes appears:
For some there are, whose mighty frame
The hand of Jove at birth indow'd
With hopes that mock the gazing crowd;
As eagles drink the noontide flame,

II. 3.
While the dim raven beats her weary wings,
And clamours far below. — Propitious Muse,

* Pindar.
While I so late unlock thy purer springs,
And breathe whate'er thy ancient airs infuse,
Wilt thou for Albion's sons around
(Ne'er had'st thou audience more renown'd)
Thy charming arts imploy,
As when the winds from shore to shore
Through Greece thy lyre's persuasive language bore,
Till towns, and isles, and seas return'd the vocal joy?

III. 1.
Yet then did pleasure's lawless throng,
Oft rushing forth in loose attire,
Thy virgin dance, thy graceful song
Pollute with impious revels dire.

53 purer] hallow'd 1745 55-56 1745 reads
To polish Albion's warlike ear
This long-lost melody to hear,

55-56 1760 reads
Wilt thou, attracting Albion's ear
That long-lost melody to hear,

57 charming] sweetest 1745 60 towns,] ~, 1772a, 1772b isles,]
~, 1772a, 1772b 61-64 1745 reads
But oft amid the Grecian throng,
The loose-rob'd forms of wild desire
With lawless notes intun'd thy song,
To shameful steps dissolv'd thy quire.

63-64 1760 reads
With impious sounds profane thy song
And break in shameful steps thy choir.
O fair, O chaste, thy echoing shade
May no foul discord here invade:
Nor let thy strings one accent move,
Except what earth's untroubled ear
'Mid all her social tribes may hear,
And heaven's unerring throne approve.

III. 2.
Queen of the lyre, in thy retreat
The fairest flowers of Pindus glow;
The vine aspires to crown thy seat,
And myrtles round thy laurel grow.

Thy strings adapt their varied strain
To every pleasure, every pain,
Which mortal tribes were born to prove;
And strait our passions rise or fall,
As at the wind's imperious call
The ocean swells, the billows move.

65-70 1745 reads
O fair, O chaste, be still with me
From such profaner discord free:
While I frequent thy tuneful shade,
No frantic shouts of Thracian dames,
No Satyrs fierce with savage flames
Thy pleasing accents shall invade.

65-70 1760 reads
O fair, o chaste, be still with me
From such opprobrious discord free:
While I frequent thy tuneful shade,
No frantic shout from Thracian dame,
No Satyr's dire incestuous flame
Shall e'er the sacred haunt invade.

75 adapt] attune 1745
III. 3.
When midnight listens o'er the slumbering earth,
Let me, O Muse, thy solemn whispers hear:
When morning sends her fragrant breezes forth,
With airy murmurs touch my opening ear.
And ever watchful at thy side,
Let wisdom's awful suffrage guide
The tenor of thy lay:
To her of old by Jove was given
To judge the various deeds of earth and heaven;
'Twas thine by gentle arts to win us to her sway.

IV. 1.
Oft as, to well-earn'd ease resign'd,
I quit the maze where science toils,
Do thou refresh my yielding mind
With all thy gay, delusive spoils.
But, 0 indulgent, come not nigh
The busy steps, the jealous eye
Of wealthy care or gainful age;
Whose barren souls thy joys disdain,
And hold as foes to reason's reign
Whome'er thy lovely works ingage.

IV. 2.
When friendship and when letter'd mirth
Haply partake my simple board,
Then let thy blameless hand call forth
The music of the Teian chord.
Or if invok'd at softer hours,
O: seek with me the happy bowers
That hear Olympia's gentle tongue;
To beauty link'd with virtue's train,
To love devoid of jealous pain,
There let the Sapphic lute be strung.

IV. 3.
But when from envy and from death to claim
A hero bleeding for his native land;
When to throw incense on the vestal flame
Of liberty my genius gives command,
Nor Theban voice nor Lesbian lyre
From thee, O Muse, do I require;
While my presaging mind,
Conscious of powers she never knew,
Astonish'd grasps at things beyond her view,
Nor by another's fate submits to be confin'd.
ODE XIV.

TO THE HONOURABLE CHARLES TOWNSHEND:

FROM THE COUNTRY.

I.

SAY, Townshend, what can London boast
To pay thee for the pleasures lost,

The health to-day resign'd,

When spring from this her favorite seat
Bade winter hasten his retreat,

And met the western wind.

II.

Oh knew'st thou how the balmy air,

The sun, the azure heavens prepare

To heal thy languid frame,

No more would noisy courts ingage;

In vain would lying faction's rage

Thy sacred leisure claim.

III.

Oft I look'd forth, and oft admir'd;

Till with the studious volume tir'd

I sought the open day;

And, sure, I cry'd, the rural gods

Expect me in their green abodes,

And chide my tardy lay.
IV.
But ah in vain my restless feet
Trac'd every silent shady seat
Which knew their forms of old:
Nor Naiad by her fountain laid,
Nor Wood-nymph tripping through her glade,
Did now their rites unfold:

V.
Whether to nurse some infant oak
They turn the slowly-tinkling brook
And catch the pearly showers,
Or brush the mildew from the woods,
Or paint with noontide beams the buds,
Or breathe on opening flowers.

VI.
Such rites, which they with spring renew,
The eyes of care can never view;
And care hath long been mine:
And hence offended with their guest,
Since grief of love my soul oppress'd,
They hid their toils divine.

VII.
But soon shall thy inlivening tongue
This heart, by dear affliction wrung,
With noble hope inspire:
Then will the sylvan powers again
Receive me in their genial train,
And listen to my lyre.
VIII.
Beneath yon Dryad's lonely shade
A rustic altar shall be paid,
Of turf with laurel fram'd:
And thou the inscription wilt approve;
"This for the peace which, lost by love,
"By friendship was reclaim'd."

ODE XV.
TO THE EVENING-STAR.

I.
TO-NIGHT retir'd the queen of heaven
With young Endymion stays:
And now to Hesper is it given
Awhile to rule the vacant sky,
Till she shall to her lamp supply
A stream of brighter rays.

II.
O Hesper, while the starry throng
With awe thy path surrounds,
Oh listen to my suppliant song,
If haply now the vocal sphere
Can suffer thy delighted ear
To stoop to mortal sounds.
III.
So may the bridegroom's genial strain
Thee still invoke to shine:
So may the bride's unmarried train
To Hymen chaunt their flattering vow,
Still that his lucky torch may glow
With lustre pure as thine.

IV.
Far other vows must I prefer
To thy indulgent power.
Alas, but now I paid my tear
On fair Olympia's virgin tomb:
And lo, from thence, in quest I roam
Of Philomela's bower.

V.
Propitious send thy golden ray,
Thou purest light above:
Let no false shame seduce to stray
Where gulph or steep lie hid for harm:
But lead where music's healing charm
May soothe afflicted love.

VI.
To them, by many a grateful song
In happier seasons vow'd,
These lawns, Olympia's haunt, belong:
Oft by yon silver stream we walk'd,
Or fix'd, while Philomela talk'd,
Beneath yon copses stood.
VII.
Nor seldom, where the beechen boughs
That roofless tower invade,
We came while her enchanting Muse
The radiant moon above us held:
Till by a clamorous owl compell'd
She fled the solemn shade.

VIII.
But hark; I hear her liquid tone,
Now, Hesper, guide my feet
Down the red marle with moss o'er grown,
Through yon wild thicket next the plain,
Whose hawthorns choke the winding lane
Which leads to her retreat.

IX.
See the green space on either hand
Inlarg'd it spreads around:
See, in the midst she takes her stand,
Where one old oak his awful shade
Extends o'er half the level mead
Inclos'd in woods profound.

X.
Hark, how through many a melting note
She now prolongs her lays:
How sweetly down the void they float!
The breeze their magic path attends:
The stars shine out: the forest bends:
The wakeful heifers gaze.
XI.
Whoe'er thou art whom chance may bring
   To this sequester'd spot,
If then the plaintive Syren sing,
Oh softly tread beneath her bower,
And think of heaven's disposing power,
   Of man's uncertain lot.

XII.
Oh think, o'er all this mortal stage,
   What mournful scenes arise:
What ruin waits on kingly rage:
How often virtue dwells with woe:
How many griefs from knowledge flow:
   How swiftly pleasure flies.

XIII.
0 sacred bird, let me at eve,
   Thus wandering all alone,
Thy tender counsel oft receive,
Bear witness to thy pensive airs,
And pity nature's common cares
   Till I forget my own.
ODE XVI.

TO CALEB HARDINGE, M. D.

I.
WITH sordid floods the wintry * Urn
Hath stain'd fair Richmond's level green:
Her naked hill the Dryads mourn,
No longer a poetic scene.
No longer there thy raptur'd eye
The beauteous forms of earth or sky
Surveys as in their Author's mind:
And London shelters from the year
Those whom thy social hours to share
The Attic Muse design'd.

II.
From Hampstead's airy summit me
Her guest the city shall behold,
What day the people's stern decree
To unbelieving kings is told,
When common men (the dread of fame)
Adjudg'd as one of evil name,
Before the sun, the anointed head.
Then seek thou too the pious town,
With no unworthy cares to crown
That evening's awful shade.

* Aquarius.
III.
Deem not I call thee to deplore
The sacred martyr of the day,
By fast and penitential lore
To purge our ancient guilt away.
For this, on humble faith I rest
That still our advocate, the priest,
From heavenly wrath will save the land;
Nor ask what rites our pardon gain,
Nor how his potent sounds restrain
The thunderer's lifted hand.

IV.
No, Hardinge: peace to church and state!
That evening, let the Muse give law:
While I anew the theme relate
Which my first youth inamor'd saw.
Then will I oft explore thy thought,
What to reject which Locke hath taught,
What to pursue in Virgil's lay:
Till hope ascends to loftiest things,
Nor envies demagogues or kings
Their frail and vulgar sway.

V.
O vers'd in all the human frame,
Lead thou where'er my labor lies,
And English fancy's eager flame
To Grecian purity chastize:
While hand in hand, at wisdom's shrine,
Beauty with truth I strive to join,
And grave assent with glad applause;
To paint the story of the soul,
And Plato's visions to controul
By * Verulamian laws.

ODE XVII.

ON A SERMON AGAINST GLORY.

MDCCXLVII.

I.
COME then, tell me, sage divine,
Is it an offence to own
That our bosoms e'er incline
Toward immortal glory's throne?
For with me nor pomp, nor pleasure,
Bourbon's might, Braganza's treasure,
So can fancy's dream rejoice,
So conciliate reason's choice,
As one approving word of her impartial voice.

* Verulam gave one of his titles to Francis Bacon, author of the Novum Organum.
II.
If to spurn at noble praise
Be the pass-port to thy heaven,
Follow thou those gloomy ways;
No such law to me was given,
Nor, I trust, shall I deplore me
Faring like my friends before me;
Nor an holier place desire
Than Timoleon's arms acquire,
And Tully's curule chair, and Milton's golden lyre.

ODE XVIII.

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
FRANCIS EARL OF HUNTINGDON. MDCCXLVII.

I.
The wise and great of every clime,
Through all the spacious walks of Time,
Where'er the Muse her power display'd,
With joy have listen'd and obey'd.
For taught of heaven, the sacred Nine
Persuasive numbers, forms divine,
To mortal sense impart:
They best the soul with glory fire;
They noblest counsels, boldest deeds inspire;
And high o'er fortune's rage inthrone the fixed heart.
I. 2.
Nor less prevailing is their charm
The vengeful bosom to disarm;
To melt the proud with human woe,
And prompt unwilling tears to flow.
Can wealth a power like this afford?
Can Cromwell's arts, or Marlborough's sword,
An equal empire claim?
No, Hastings. Thou my words wilt own:
Thy breast the gifts of every Muse hath known;
Nor shall the giver's love disgrace thy noble name.

I. 3.
The Muse's awful art,
And the blest function of the poet's tongue,
Ne'er shalt thou blush to honour; to assert
From all that scorned vice or slavish fear hath sung,
Nor shall the blandishment of Tuscan strings
Warbling at will in pleasure's myrtle bower;
Nor shall the servile notes to Celtic kings
By flattering minstrels paid in evil hour,
Move thee to spurn the heavenly Muse's reign.
A different strain,
And other themes
From her prophetic shades and hallow'd streams

19 the gifts of every Muse hath] to every Muse was early 1748a, 1748b
20 giver's love] mutual Tie 1748a, 1748b 21 awful art] genuine Praise, 1748a, 1748b
22 blest] fair 1748a, 1748b 23 honour; to assert] vindicate and raise 1748a, 1748b
28 flattering] lying 1748a, 1748b
(Thou well can'st witness) meet the purged ear:
Such, as when Greece to her immortal shell
Rejoicing listen'd, godlike sounds to hear;
To hear the sweet instructress tell
(While men and heroes throng'd around)
How life its noblest use may find,
How well for freedom be resign'd;
And how, by glory, virtue shall be crown'd.

II. 1.
Such was the Chian father's strain
To many a kind domestic train,
Whose pious hearth and genial bowl
Had cheer'd the reverend pilgrim's soul:
When, every hospitable rite
With equal bounty to requite,
He struck his magic strings;
And pour'd spontaneous numbers forth,
And seiz'd their ears with tales of ancient worth,
And fill'd their musing hearts with vast heroic things.

II. 2.
Now oft, where happy spirits dwell,
Where yet he tunes his charming shell,
Oft near him, with applauding hands,
The genius of his country stands.
To listening gods he makes him known,

---

* Homer.
That man divine, by whom were sown

The seeds of Grecian fame:

Who first the race with freedom fir'd;

From whom [*] Lycurgus Sparta's sons inspir'd;

From whom [+] Platman palms and Cyprian trophies came. 60

II. 3.

O no blest, happiest age!

When Aristides rul'd, and [¶] Cimon fought;

[*] Stanza II. 2.] Lycurgus the Lacedemonian lawgiver brought into Greece from Asia Minor the first complete copy of Homer's works.

[+] At Platea was fought the decisive battle between the Persian army and the united militia of Greece under Pausanias and Aristides.

[¶] Cimon the Athenian erected a trophy in Cyprus for two great victories gained on the same day over the Persians by sea and land. Diodorus Siculus has preserved the inscription which the Athenians affixed to the consecrated spoils, after this great success; in which it is very remarkable, that the greatness of the occasion has raised the manner of expression above the usual simplicity and modesty of all other ancient inscriptions. It is this:

ΕΣ. ΟΤ. Γ. ΕΤΡΩΠΙΗΝ. ΑΣΙΑΣ. ΔΙΧΑ. ΠΟΝΤΩΣ. ΕΝΕΙΜΕ.
ΚΑΙ. ΠΟΛΕΩΝ. ΟΝΙΤΩΝ. ΟΥΤΡΟΣ. ΑΡΗΣ. ΕΠΕΧΕΙ.
ΟΥΑΕΝ. ΠΙ. ΤΟΙΩΤΩΝ. ΕΠΙΧΟΝΙΩΝ. ΓΕΝΕΤ. ΑΝΑΡΩΝ.
ΕΡΓΩΝ. ΕΝ. ΗΠΕΙΡΩΙ. ΚΑΙ. ΚΑΤΑ. ΠΟΝΤΩΝ. ΑΣΙΑ.
ΟΙΔΕ. ΠΑΡ. ΕΝ. ΚΥΠΡΩI. ΜΗΔΟΤΩΣ. ΠΟΛΛΩΤΩΣ. ΟΛΕΓΑΝΤΕΣ.
ΦΟΙΝΙΚΩΝ. ΕΚΑΤΩΝ. ΝΑΤΥΣ. ΕΛΩΝ. ΕΝ. ΠΕΛΑΤΕΙ.
ΑΝΑΡΩΝ. ΠΑΗΣΟΤΩΣ. ΜΕΓΑ. Δ. ΕΣΤΕΝΕΝ. ΑΣΙΑς. ΤΩI. ΑΤΤΩΝ.
ΠΑΝΓΕΙΣ. ΑΜΦΟΤΕΡΑΙΣ. ΧΕΡΣΗ. ΚΡΑΤΕΙ. ΠΟΛΕΜΟΥ.

The following translation is almost literal:

Since first the sea from Asia's hostile coast
Divided Europe, and the god of war
Assail'd imperious cities; never yet,
At once among the waves and on the shore,
Hath such a labour been achieving'd by men
Who earth inhabit. They, whose arms the Medes
In Cyprus felt pernicious, they, the same,
Have won from skilful Tyre an hundred ships
Crouded with warriors. Asia groans, in both
Her hands sore smitten, by the might of war. 5

4 among] amid 1748a, 1748b  5 Hath...men] Hath such a Deed been
wrought by mortal Men 1748a, 1748b  10 by the might of war] and
deserts the War. 1748a, 1748b
When all the generous fruits of Homer's page

Exulting [∗] Pindar saw to full perfection brought.

O Pindar, oft shall thou be hail'd of me:
Not that Apollo fed thee from his shrine;
Nor that thy lips drank sweetness from the bee;
Nor yet that, studious of thy notes divine,
Pan danc'd their measure with the sylvan throng:

But that thy song

Was proud to unfold

[*] Stanza II. 3. Pindar was cotemporary with Aristides and Cimon, in whom the glory of ancient Greece was at its height. When Xerxes invaded Greece, Pindar was true to the common interest of his country; though his fellow citizens, the Thebans, had sold themselves to the Persian king. In one of his odes he expresses the great distress and anxiety of his mind, occasioned by the vast preparations of Xerxes against Greece. (Isthm. 8.) In another he celebrates the victories of Salamis, Platea, and Himera, (Pyth. 1.) It will be necessary to add two or three other particulars of his life, real or fabulous, in order to explain what follows in the text concerning him. First then, he was thought to be so great a favourite of Apollo, that the priests of that deity allotted him a constant share of their offerings. It was said of him, as of some other illustrious men, that at his birth a swarm of bees lighted on his lips, and fed him with their honey. It was also a tradition concerning him, that Pan was heard to recite his poetry, and seen dancing to one of his hymns on the mountains near Thebes. But a real historical fact in his life is, that the Thebans imposed a large fine upon him on account of the veneration which he expressed in his poems for that heroic spirit, shewn by the people of Athens in defence of the common liberty, which his own fellow citizens had shamefully betrayed. And, as the argument of this ode implies, that great poetical talents, and high sentiments of liberty, do reciprocally produce and assist each other, so Pindar is perhaps the most exemplary proof of this connection, which occurs in history. The Thebans were remarkable, in general, for a slavish disposition through all the fortunes of their common-wealth; at the time of its ruin by Philip; and even in its best state, under the administration of Pelopidas and Epaminondas: and every one knows, they were no less remarkable for great dullness, and want of all genius. That Pindar should have equally distinguished himself from the rest of his fellow citizens in both these respects, seems somewhat extraordinary, and is scarce to be accounted for but by the preceding observation.

1. cotemporary] contemporary 1748a, 1748b
What thy base rulers trembled to behold;
Amid corrupted Thebes was proud to tell
The deeds of Athens and the Persian shame:
Hence on thy head their impious vengeance fell.
But thou, O faithful to thy fame,
The Muse's law did'st rightly know;
That who would animate his lays,
And other minds to virtue raise,
Must feel his own with all her spirit glow.

III. 1.
Are there, approv'd of later times,
Whose verse adorn'd a tyrant's crimes?
Who saw majestic Rome betray'd,
And lent the imperial ruffian aid?
Alas! not one polluted bard,
No, not the strains that Mincius heard,
Or Tibur's hills reply'd,
Dare to the Muse's ear aspire;
Save that, instructed by the Grecian lyre,
With freedom's ancient notes their shameful task they hide.

III. 2.
Mark, how the dread Pantheon stands,
Amid the domes of modern hands:
Amid the toys of idle state,
How simply, how severely great!

80 spirit] Honours 1748a, 1748b 82 * tyrant's] † Tyrant's 1748a,
1748b 89 that] while, 1748a, 1748b 90 ancient] native 1748a,
1748b

* Octavianus Cesar. † Octavius Cesar.
Then turn, and, while each western clime

Presents her tuneful sons to Time,

So mark thou Milton's name;

And add, "Thus differs from the throng

"The spirit which inform'd thy awful song,

"Which bade thy potent voice protect thy country's fame."

III. 3.

Yet hence barbaric zeal

His memory with unholy rage pursues;

While from these arduous cares of public weal

She bids each bard begone, and rest him with his Muse.

O fool! to think the man, whose ample mind

Must grasp at all that yonder stars survey;

Must join the noblest forms of every kind,

The world's most perfect image to display,

Can e'er his country's majesty behold,

Unmov'd or cold!

O fool! to deem

That he, whose thought must visit every theme,

Whose heart must every strong emotion know

Inspir'd by nature, or by fortune taught;
That [*] he, if haply some presumptuous foe,
With false ignoble science fraught,
Shall spurn at freedom's faithful band;
That he their dear defence will shun,
Or hide their glories from the sun,
Or deal their vengeance with a woman's hand!

IV. 1.

I care not that in Arno's plain,
Or on the sportive banks of Seine,
From public themes the Muse's quire
Content with polish'd ease retire.
Where priests the studious head command,
Where tyrants bow the warlike hand
To vile ambition's aim,
Say, what can the public themes afford,
Save venal honors to an hateful lord,
Reserv'd for angry heaven and scorn'd of honest fame?

IV. 2.

But here, where freedom's equal throne
To all her valiant sons is known;
Where all are conscious of her cares,
And each the power, that rules him, shares;

[*] Stanza III. 3.] Alluding to his Defence of the people of England against Salmasius. See particularly the manner in which he himself speaks of that undertaking, in the introduction of his reply to Morus.
Here let the bard, whose dastard tongue
Leaves public arguments unsung,
Bid public praise farewell:
Let him to fitter climes remove,
Far from the hero's and the patriot's love,
And lull mysterious monks to slumber in their cell.

IV. 3.
0 Hastings, not to all
Can ruling heaven the same endowments lend:
Yet still doth nature to her offspring call,
That to one general weal their different powers they bend,
Unenvious. Thus alone, though strains divine
Inform the bosom of the Muse's son;
Though with new honors the patrician's line
Advance from age to age; yet thus alone
They win the suffrage of impartial fame.
The poet's name
He best shall prove,
Whose lays the soul with noblest passions move.

135 dastard tongue] listless Feet 1748a, 1748b 136 Leaves...unsung]
From public Labours would retreat, 1748a, 1748b 137 praise] Joys
1748a, 1748b 144-149 1748a and 1748b read

That each their different Powers to one Pursuit should bend;
To one, the general Weal. What, tho' the Muse
With Sweetness fill the Bosom of her Son?
Tho' public Power the high Patrician's Brows
With Honour clothe? Yet this Pursuit alone
Can rescue Both from Envy and from Blame.

152 with noblest passions] to noblest Functions 1748a, 1748b
But thee, O progeny of heroes old,

Thee to severer toils thy fate requires:
The fate which form'd thee in a chosen mould,

The grateful country of thy sires,
Thee to sublimier paths demand;
Sublimier than thy sires could trace,
Or thy own [*] Edward teach his race,

Though Gaul's proud genius sank beneath his hand.

V. 1.

From rich domains and subject farms,
They led the rustic youth to arms;
And kings their stern achievements fear'd;
While private strife their banners rear'd.

But loftier scenes to thee are shown,

Where empire's wide-establish'd throne

No private master fills:

Where, long foretold, the People reigns:

Where each a vassal's humble heart disdains;

And judgeth what he sees; and, as he judgeth, wills.

V. 2.

Here be it thine to calm and guide

The swelling democratic tide;

To watch the state's uncertain frame,

And baffle faction's partial aim:

160 sank] sunk 1748a, 1748b 170 judgeth...judgeth] judges...judges,
1748a, 1748b

[*] Stanza IV. 3.] Edward the Third; from whom descended Henry Hastings,
third Earl of Huntingdon, by the daughter of the Duke of Clarence, bro-
her to Edward the Fourth.
But chiefly, with determin'd zeal,
To quell that servile band, who kneel
To freedom's banish'd foes;
That monster, which is daily found
Expert and bold thy country's peace to wound;
Yet dreads to handle arms, nor manly counsel knows.

V. 3.
'Tis highest heaven's command,
That guilty aims should sordid paths pursue;
That what ensnares the heart should maim the hand,
And virtue's worthless foes be false to glory too.

But look on freedom. See, through every age,
What labours, perils, griefs, hath she disdain'd!
What arms, what regal pride, what priestly rage,
Have her dread offspring conquer'd or sustain'd!

For Albion well have conquer'd. Let the strains
Of happy swains,
Which now resound
Where [*] Scarsdale's cliffs the swelling pastures bound,
Bear witness. There, oft let the farmer hail
The sacred orchard which imbowsers his gate,

[*] Stanza V. 3.] At Whittington, a village on the edge of Scarsdale in Derbyshire, the Earls of Devonshire and Danby, with the Lord Delamere, privately concerted the plan of the Revolution. The house in which they met is at present a farm-house, and the country people distinguish the room where they sat, by the name of the plotting parlour.
And shew to strangers passing down the vale,
Where Candish, Booth, and Osborne sate;
When bursting from their country's chain,
Even in the midst of deadly harms,
Of papal snares and lawless arms,
They plann'd for freedom this her noblest reign.

VI. 1.
This reign, these laws, this public care,
Which Nassau gave us all to share,
Had ne'er adorn'd the English name,
Could fear have silenc'd freedom's claim.
But fear in vain attempts to bind
Those lofty efforts of the mind
Which social good inspires;
Where men, for this, assault a throne,
Each adds the common welfare to his own;
And each unconquer'd heart the strength of all acquires.

VI. 2.
Say, was it thus, when late we view'd
Our fields in civil blood imbru'd?
When fortune crown'd the barbarous host,
And half the astonish'd isle was lost?
Did one of all that vaunting train,
Who dare affront a peaceful reign,
Durst one in arms appear?

195 to strangers passing down the vale] the Stranger passing on his Way, 1748a, 1748b
200 noblest] awful 1748a, 1748b VI. 1.] VI. 2.
216 affront] to curse 1748a, 1748b
Durst one in counsels pledge his life?

Stake his luxurious fortunes in the strife?

Or lend his boasted name his vagrant friends to cheer?

VI. 3.

Yet, Hastings, these are they

Who challenge to themselves thy country's love;

The true; the constant: who alone can weigh,

What glory should demand, or liberty approve:

But let their works declare them. Thy free powers,

The generous powers of thy prevailing mind,

Not for the tasks of their confederate hours,

Lewd brawls and lurking slander, were design'd.

Be thou thy own approver. Honest praise

Oft nobly sways

Ingenuous youth:

But, sought from cowards and the lying mouth,

Praise is reproach. Eternal God alone

For mortals fixeth that sublime award.

He, from the faithful records of his throne,

Bids the historian and the bard

Dispose of honor and of scorn;

Discern the patriot from the slave;

And write the good, the wise, the brave,

For lessons to the multitude unborn.
ODES, BOOK THE SECOND.
ODE I.

THE REMONSTRANCE OF SHAKESPEARE:

Supposed to have been spoken at the Theatre Royal, while the French Comedians were acting by Subscription.

MDCCXLIIX.

IF, yet regardful of your native land,
Old Shakespeare's tongue you deign to understand,
Lo, from the blissful bowers where heaven rewards Instructive sages and unblemish'd bards,
I come, the ancient founder of the stage,
Intent to learn, in this discerning age,
What form of wit your fancies have imbrac'd,
And whither tends your elegance of taste,
That thus at length our homely toils you spurn,
That thus to foreign scenes you proudly turn,
That from my brow the laurel wreath you claim
To crown the rivals of your country's fame.

What, though the footsteps of my devious Muse
The measur'd walks of Grecian art refuse?
Or though the frankness of my hardy style
Mock the nice touches of the critic's file?
Yet, what my age and climate held to view,
Impartial I survey'd and fearless drew.
And say, ye skillful in the human heart,
Who know to prize a poet's noblest part,
What age, what clime, could e'er an ampler field
For lofty thought, for daring fancy, yield?
I saw this England break the shameful bands
Forg'd for the souls of men by sacred hands:
I saw each groaning realm her aid implore;
Her sons the heroes of each warlike shore;
Her naval standard (the dire Spaniard's bane)
Obey'd through all the circuit of the main.
Then too great commerce, for a late-found world,
Around your coast her eager sails unfurl'd:
New hopes, new passions, thence the bosom fir'd;
New plans, new arts, the genius thence inspir'd;
Thence every scene, which private fortune knows,
In stronger life, with bolder spirit, rose.
  Disgrac'd I this full prospect which I drew?
My colours languid, or my strokes untrue?
Have not your sages, warriors, swains, and kings,
Confess'd the living draught of men and things?
What other bard in any clime appears
Alike the master of your smiles and tears?
Yet have I deign'd your audience to intice
With wretched bribes to luxury and vice?
Or have my various scenes a purpose known
Which freedom, virtue, glory, might not own?
Such from the first was my dramatic plan;
It should be yours to crown what I began:
And now that England spurns her Gothic chain,
And equal laws and social science reign,
I thought, Now surely shall my zealous eyes
View nobler bards and juster critics rise,
Intent with learned labour to refine
The copious ore of Albion's native mine,
Our stately Muse more graceful airs to teach,
And form her tongue to more attractive speech,
Till rival nations listen at her feet,
And own her polish'd as they own'd her great.
But do you thus my favourite hopes fullfil?
Is France at last the standard of your skill?
Alas for you! that so betray a mind
Of art unconscious and to beauty blind.
Say; does her language your ambition raise,
Her barren, trivial, unharmonious phrase,
Which fetters eloquence to scantiest bounds,
And maims the cadence of poetic sounds?
Say; does your humble admiration chuse
The gentle prattle of her Comic Muse,
While wits, plain-dealers, fops, and fools appear,
Charg'd to say nought but what the king may hear?
Or rather melt your sympathizing hearts
Won by her tragic scene's romantic arts,
Where old and young declaim on soft desire,
And heroes never, but for love, expire?

No. Though the charms of novelty, awhile,
Perhaps too fondly win your thoughtless smile,
Yet not for you design'd indulgent fate
The modes or manners of the Bourbon state.
And ill your minds my partial judgment reads,
And many an augury my hope misleads.

If the fair maids of yonder blooming train
To their light courtship would an audience deign,
Or those chaste matrons a Parisian wife
Chuse for the model of domestic life;
Or if one youth of all that generous band,
The strength and splendor of their native land,
Would yield his portion of his country's fame,
And quit old freedom's patrimonial claim,
With lying smiles oppression's pomp to see,
And judge of glory by a king's decree.

O blest at home with justly-envied laws,
O long the chiefs of Europe's general cause,
Whom heaven hath chosen at each dangerous hour
To check the inroads of barbaric power,
The rights of trampled nations to reclaim,
And guard the social world from bonds and shame;
Oh let not luxury's fantastic charms
Thus give the lye to your heroic arms:
Nor for the ornaments of life imbrace
Dishonest lessons from that vaunting race,
Whom fate's dread laws (for, in eternal fate
Despotic rule was heir to freedom's hate)
Whom in each warlike, each commercial part,
In civil counsel, and in pleasing art,
The judge of earth predestin'd for your foes,
And made it fame and virtue to oppose.

ODE II.

TO SLEEP.

I.
THOU silent power, whose welcome sway
Charms every anxious thought away;
In whose divine oblivion drown'd,
Sore pain and weary toil grow mild,
Love is with kinder looks beguil'd,
And grief forgets her fondly-cherish'd wound;
Oh whither hast thou flown, indulgent god?
God of kind shadows and of healing dews,
Whom dost thou touch with thy Lethæan rod?

Around whose temples now thy opiate airs diffuse?

ODE II. TO SLEEP. 1772a 1745, 1760, 1772b 1745, 1760, 1772a, 1772b I welcome] balmy 1745 4 Sore pain and weary toil] Fatigue and toiling pain 1745 5 kinder looks] sweet success 1745 6 And...wound] And sad remorse forgets her secret wound; 1745 9 Whom...rod] O'er whom dost thou extend thy magic rod? 1745, 1760 10 whose temples now] what peaceful couch 1745, 1760
II.
Lo, midnight from her starry reign
Looks awful down on earth and main.
The tuneful birds lie hush'd in sleep,
With all that crop the verdant food,
With all that skim the crystal flood,
Or haunt the caverns of the rocky steep.
No rushing winds disturb the tufted bowers;
No wakeful sound the moon-light valley knows,
Save where the brook its liquid murmur pours,
And lulls the waving scene to more profound repose.

III.
Oh let me not alone complain,
Alone invoke thy power in vain!
Descend, propitious, on my eyes;
Not from the couch that bears a crown,
Not from the courtly statesman's down,
Nor where the miser and his treasure lies:
Bring not the shapes that break the murderer's rest,
Nor those the hireling soldier loves to see,
Nor those which haunt the bigot's gloomy breast:
Far be their guilty nights, and far their dreams from me.

IV.
Nor yet those awful forms present,
For chiefs and heroes only meant:
The figur'd brass, the choral song,
The rescu'd people's glad applause,
The listening senate, and the laws
Fix'd by the counsels of * Timoleon's tongue,
Are scenes too grand for fortune's private ways;
And though they shine in youth's ingenuous view,
The sober gainful arts of modern days
To such romantic thoughts have bid a long adieu.

V.
I ask not, god of dreams, thy care
To banish Love's presentments fair:
Nor rosy cheek nor radiant eye
Can arm him with such strong command
That the young sorcerer's fatal hand
Should round my soul his pleasing fetters tie.

36 Fix'd by the counsels] Bent on the dictates 1745
41-46 1745 reads

44 strong command] influence bland 1760

* After Timoleon had delivered Syracuse from the tyranny of Dionysius, the people on every important deliberation sent for him into the public assembly, asked his advice, and voted according to it. PLUTARCH. 3
3 it] his decision. 1745
Nor yet the courtier's hope, the giving smile
(A lighter phantom, and a baser chain)
Did e'er in slumber my proud lyre beguile
To lend the pomp of thrones her ill-accorded strain.

VI.
But, Morpheus, on thy balmy wing
Such honorable visions bring,
As sooth'd great Milton's injur'd age,
When in prophetic dreams he saw
The race unborn with pious awe
Imbibe each virtue from his heavenly page:
Or such as Mead's benignant fancy knows
When health's deep treasures, by his art explor'd,
Have sav'd the infant from an orphan's woes,
Or to the trembling sire his age's hope restor'd.

ODE III.
TO THE CUCKOW.
I.
O rustic herald of the spring,
At length in yonder woody vale
Fast by the brook I hear thee sing;

47-50 1745 reads
Nor yet the courtier's hope, the giving smile,
(A lighter phantom and a baser chain)
Bids wealth and place the fever'd night beguile,
To gall my waking hours with more vexatious pain.

51 balmy] dewy 1745 52 honorable] fair auspicious 1745 55 race]
tribes 1745 58 deep] kind 1745

ODE III. TO THE CUCKOW. 1772a 1772b Title: TO THE CUCKOW. 1772a, 1772b
And, studious of thy homely tale,
Amid the vespers of the grove,
Amid the chaunting choir of love,
Thy sage responses hail.

II.
The time has been when I have frowned'd
To hear thy voice the woods invade;
And when thy solemn accent drown'd
Some sweeter poet of the shade,
Thus, thought I, thus the sons of care
Some constant youth or generous fair
With dull advice upbraided.

III.
I said, "While Philomela's song
"Proclaims the passion of the grove,
"It ill beseems a cuckow's tongue
"Her charming language to reprove"—
Alas, how much a lover's ear
Hates all the sober truth to hear,

The sober truth of love!

IV.
When hearts are in each other bless'd,
When nought but lofty faith can rule
The nymph's and swain's consenting breast,
How cuckow-like in Cupid's school,
With store of grave prudential saws
On fortune's power and custom's laws,

Appears each friendly fool!
V.
Yet think betimes, ye gentle train
Whom love and hope and fancy sway,
Who every harsher care disdain,
Who by the morning judge the day,
Think that, in April's fairest hours,
To warbling shades and painted flowers
The cuckow joins his lay.

ODE IV.
TO THE HONOURABLE CHARLES TOWNSHEND
IN THE COUNTRY.

MDCCCL.

I. I.

HOW oft shall I survey
This humble roof, the lawn, the greenwood shade,
The vale with sheaves o'erspread,
The glassy brook, the flocks which round thee stray?
When will thy cheerful mind
Of these have utter'd all her dear esteem?
Or, tell me, dost thou deem
No more to join in glory's toilsome race,
But here content imbrace
That happy leisure which thou had'st resign'd?
I. 2.
Alas, ye happy hours,
When books and youthful sport the soul could share,
Ere one ambitious care
Of civil life had aw'd her simpler powers;
Oft as your winged train
Revisit here my friend in white array,
Oh fail not to display
Each fairer scene where I perchance had part,
That so his generous heart
The abode of even friendship may remain.

For not imprudent of my loss to come,
I saw from contemplation's quiet cell
His feet ascending to another home
Where public praise and envied greatness dwell.
But shall we therefore, O my lyre
Reprove ambition's best desire?
Extinguish glory's flame?
Far other was the task injoin'd
When to my hand thy strings were first assign'd:
Far other faith belongs to friendship's honor'd name.

II. 1.
Thee, Townshend, not the arms
Of slumbering ease, nor pleasure's rosy chain,
Were destin'd to detain:
No, nor bright science, nor the Muse's charms.
For them high heaven prepares
Their proper votaries, an humbler band:
\[\text{And ne'er would Spenser's hand}\]
Have deign'd to strike the warbling Tuscan shell,
\[\text{Nor Harrington to tell}\]
What habit an immortal city wears,
\[\text{II. 2.}\]
Had this been born to shield
The cause which Cromwell's impious hand betray'd,
\[\text{Or that, like Vere, display'd}\]
His redcross banner o'er the Belgian field.
Yet where the will divine
Hath shut those loftiest paths, it next remains,
\[\text{With reason clad in strains}\]
Of harmony, selected minds to inspire,
\[\text{And virtue's living fire}\]
To feed and eternize in hearts like thine.
\[\text{II. 3.}\]
For never shall the herd, whom envy sways,
So quell my purpose or my tongue controul,
That I should fear illustrious worth to praise,
Because its master's friendship mov'd my soul.
Yet, if this undissembling strain
Should now perhaps thine ear detain
\[\text{With any pleasing sound,}\]
\[\text{Remember thou that righteous fame}\]
From hoary age a strict account will claim
\[\text{Of each auspicious palm with which thy youth was crown'd.}\]
III. 1.
Nor obvious is the way
Where heaven expects thee, nor the traveller leads,
   Through flowers or fragrant meads,
Or groves that hark to Philomela's lay.
   The impartial laws of fate
To nobler virtues wed severer cares.
   Is there a man who shares
The summit next where heavenly natures dwell?
   Ask him (for he can tell)
What storms beat round that rough laborious height.

III. 2.
Ye heroes, who of old
Did generous England freedom's throne ordain;
   From Alfred's parent reign
To Nassau, great deliverer, wise and bold;
   I know your perils hard,
Your wounds, your painful marches, wintry seas,
   The night estrang'd from ease,
The day by cowardice and falsehood vex'd,
   The head with doubt perplex'd,
The indignant heart disdaining the reward
   Which envy hardly grants. But, 0 renown,
0 praise from judging heaven and virtuous men,
If thus they purchas'd thy divinest crown,
Say, who shall hesitate? or who complain?
   And now they sit on thrones above:
And when among the gods they move
Before the sovran mind,
"Lo, these," he saith, "lo, these are they
"Who to the laws of mine eternal sway
From violence and fear asserted human kind."

IV. 1.
Thus honor'd while the train
Of legislators in his presence dwell;
If I may aught foretell,
The statesman shall the second palm obtain,
For dreadful deeds of arms
Let vulgar bards, with undiscerning praise,
More glittering trophies raise:
But wisest heaven what deeds may chiefly move
To favor and to love?
What, save wide blessings, or averted harms?

IV. 2.
Nor to the im battled field
Shall these achievements of the peaceful gown
The green immortal crown
Of valor, or the songs of conquest, yield.
Not Fairfax wildly bold,
While bare of crest he hew'd his fatal way,
Through Naseby's firm array,
To heavier dangers did his breast oppose
Than Pym's free virtue chose,
When the proud force of Strafford he controll'd.
IV. 3.
But what is man at enmity with truth?
What were the fruits of Wentworth's copious mind
When (blighted all the promise of his youth)
The patriot in a tyrant's league had join'd?
Let Ireland's loud-lamenting plains,
Let Tyne's and Humber's trampled swains,
Let menac'd London tell
How impious guile made wisdom base;
How generous zeal to cruel rage gave place;
And how unbless'd he liv'd and how dishonor'd fell.

V. 1.
Thence never hath the Muse
Around his tomb Pierian roses flung:
Nor shall one poet's tongue
His name for music's pleasing labor chuse.
And sure, when nature kind
Hath deck'd some favor'd breast above the throng,
That man with grievous wrong
Affronts and wounds his genius, if he bends
To guilt's ignoble ends
The functions of his ill-submitting mind.

V. 2.
For worthy of the wise
Nothing can, seem but virtue; nor earth yield
Their fame an equal field,
Save where impartial freedom gives the prize.
There Somers fix'd his name,
Inroll'd the next to William. There shall Time
   To every wondering clime
Point out that Somers, who from faction's crowd,
   The slanderous and the loud,
Could fair assent and modest reverence claim.

V. 3.
Nor aught did laws or social arts acquire,
Nor this majestic weal of Albion's land
Did aught accomplish, or to aught aspire,
Without his guidance, his superior hand.
And rightly shall the Muse's care
Wreaths like her own for him prepare,
   Whose mind's inamor'd aim
Could forms of civil beauty draw
Sublime as ever sage or poet saw,
Yet still to life's rude scene the proud ideas tame.

VI. 1.
Let none profane be near;
The Muse was never foreign to his breast:
   On power's grave seat confess'd,
Still to her voice he bent a lover's ear.
   And if the blessed know
Their ancient cares, even now the unfading groves,
   Where haply Milton roves
With Spenser, hear the enchanted echos round
   Through farthest heaven resound
Wise Somers, guardian of their fame below.

136 There] there 1772a, 1772b
VI. 2.
He knew, the patriot knew,
That letters and the Muse's powerful art
Exalt the ingenuous heart,
And brighten every form of just and true.
They lend a nobler sway
To civil wisdom, than corruption's lure
Could ever yet procure:
They too from envy's pale malignant light
Conduct her forth to sight
Cloath'd in the fairest colors of the day.

VI. 3.
O Townshend, thus may Time, the judge severe,
Instruct my happy tongue of thee to tell:
And when I speak of one to freedom dear
For planning wisely and for acting well,
Of one whom glory loves to own,
Who still by liberal means alone
Hath liberal ends pursu'd;
Then, for the guerdon of my lay,
"This man with faithful friendship," will I say,
"From youth to honor'd age my arts and me hath view'd."

162 Muse's] Muses 1772a, 1772b
ODE V.

ON LOVE OF PRAISE.

I.
Of all the springs within the mind
Which prompt her steps in fortune's maze,
From none more pleasing aid we find
Than from the genuine love of praise.

II.
Nor any partial, private end
Such reverence to the public bears;
Nor any passion, virtue's friend,
So like to virtue's self appears.

III.
For who in glory can delight
Without delight in glorious deeds?
What man a charming voice can slight,
Who courts the echo that succeeds?

IV.
But not the echo on the voice
More, than on virtue, praise depends;
To which, of course, it's real price
The judgment of the praiser lends.

V.
If praise then with religious awe
From the sole perfect judge be sought,
A nobler aim, a purer law
Nor priest, nor bard, nor sage hath taught.
VI.

With which in character the same
Tho' in an humbler sphere it lies,
I count that soul of human fame,
The suffrage of the good and wise.

ODE VI.

TO WILLIAM HALL, ESQUIRE:
WITH THE WORKS OF CHAULIEU.

I.

ATTEND to Chaulieu's wanton lyre;
While, fluent as the sky-lark sings
When first the morn allures it's wings,
The epicure his theme pursues:
And tell me if, among the choir
Whose music charms the banks of Seine,
So full, so free, so rich a strain
E'er dictated the warbling Muse.

II.

Yet, Hall, while thy judicious ear
Admires the well-dissembled art
That can such harmony impart
To the lame pace of Gallic rhymes;
While wit from affectation clear,
Bright images, and passions true,
Recall to thy assenting view
The envied bards of nobler times;

ODE VI. TO WILLIAM HALL, ESQUIRE: WITH THE WORKS OF CHAULIEU. 1772a
1772b Title: TO WILLIAM HALL, &c. 1772a, 1772b
III.
Say, is not oft his doctrine wrong?
This priest of pleasure, who aspires
To lead us to her sacred fires,
Knows he the ritual of her shrine?
Say (her sweet influence to thy song
So may the goddess still afford)
Doth she consent to be ador'd
With shameless love and frantic wine?

IV.
Nor Cato, nor Chrysippus here
Need we in high indignant phrase
From their Elysian quiet raise;
But pleasure's oracle alone
Consult; attentive, not severe.
O pleasure, we blaspheme not thee;
Nor emulate the rigid knee
Which bends but at the Stoic throne.

V.
We own had fate to man assign'd
Nor sense, nor wish but what obey
Or Venus soft or Bacchus gay,
Then might our bard's voluptuous creed
Most aptly govern human kind:
Unless perchance what he hath sung
Of tortur'd joints and nerves unstrung,
Some wrangling heretic should plead.
VI.
But now with all these proud desires
For dauntless truth and honest fame;
With that strong master of our frame,
The inexorable judge within,
What can be done? Alas, ye fires
Of love; alas, ye rosy smiles,
Ye nectar'd cups from happier soils,
— Ye have no bribe his grace to win.

ODE VII.
TO THE RIGHT REVEREND
BENJAMIN LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER.

MDCCCLIV.

I. 1.
FOR toils which patriots have endur'd,
For treason quell'd and laws secur'd,
In every nation Time displays
The palm of honourable praise.
Envy may rail; and faction fierce
May strive: but what, alas, can those
(Though bold, yet blind and sordid foes)
To gratitude and love oppose,
To faithful story and persuasive verse?

ODA VII. TO THE RIGHT REVEREND BENJAMIN LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER.
MDCCCLIV. 1772a D, 1772b Title: TO THE RIGHT REVEREND BENJAMIN &c.
1772a, 1772b: ODE TO THE RIGHT REVEREND BENJAMIN LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER. D.
I. 2.

0 nurse of freedom, Albion, say,
Thou tamer of despotic sway,
What man, among thy sons around,
Thus heir to glory hast thou found?
What page, in all thy annals bright,
Hast thou with purer joy survey'd
Than that where truth, by Hoadly's aid,
Shines through imposture's solemn shade,
Through kingly and through sacerdotal night?

I. 3.

To him the Teacher bless'd,
Who sent religion, from the palmy field
By Jordan, like the morn to cheer the west,
And lifted up the veil which heaven from earth conceal'd,
To Hoadly thus his mandate he address'd:
"Go thou, and rescue my dishonor'd law
"From hands rapacious and from tongues impure:
"Let not my peaceful name be made a lure
"Fell persecution's mortal snares to aid:
"Let not my words be impious chains to draw
"The freeborn soul in more than brutal awe,
"To faith without assent, allegiance unrepaid."

17 imposture's solemn] the deep unhallow'd D
18 and through] fraud and D
25 his mandate he address'd] He utter'd his behest: D
27 Fell persecution's mortal snares] The snares of savage tyranny D
II. 1.

No cold or unperforming hand
Was arm'd by heaven with this command.
The world soon felt it: and, on high,
To William's ear with welcome joy
Did [*] Locke among the blest unfold
The rising hope of Hoadly's name,
[†+] Godolphin then confirm'd the fame;
And [‡] Somers, when from earth he came,
And generous [+] Stanhope the fair sequal told.

II. 2.

Then drew the lawgivers around,
(Sires of the Grecian name renown'd)
And listening ask'd, and wondering knew,
What private force could thus subdue
The vulgar and the great combin'd;
Could war with sacred folly wage;
Could a whole nation disengage
From the dread bonds of many an age,
And to new habits mould the public mind.

31 or] nor D 39 generous] valiant D

[*] Stanza II. 1.] Mr. Locke died in 1704, when Mr. Hoadly was beginning to distinguish himself in the cause of civil and religious liberty:

[†+] Lord Godolphin in 1712, when the doctrines of the Jacobite faction were chiefly favoured by those in power:

[‡] Lord Somers in 1716, amid the practices of the nonjuring clergy against the protestant establishment;

[+] and Lord Stanhope in 1721, during the controversy with the lower house of convocation.
II. 1.
For not a conquerer's sword,

Nor the strong powers to civil founders known,
Were his: but truth by faithful search explor'd,
And social sense, like seed, in genial plenty sown.

Wherever it took root, the soul (restor'd
To freedom) freedom too for others sought.
Not monkish craft the tyrant's claim divine,
Not regal zeal the bigot's cruel shrine
Could longer guard from reason's warfare sage;
Not the wild rabble to sedition wrought,
Nor synods by the papal Genius taught,
Nor St. John's spirit loose, nor Atterbury's rage.

III. 1.
But where shall recompence be found?
Or how such arduous merit crown'd?
For look on life's laborious scene:
What rugged spaces lie between
Adventurous virtue's early toils
And her triumphal throne! The shade
Of death, mean time, does oft invade
Her progress; nor, to us display'd,
Wears the bright heroine her expected spoils.

III. 2.
Yet born to conquer is her power:

— O Hoadly, if that favourite hour
On earth arrive, with thankful awe
We own just heaven's indulgent law,
And proudly thy success behold;
We attend thy reverend length of days
With benediction and with praise,
And hail Thee in our public ways
Like some great spirit fam'd in ages old.

III. 3.
While thus our vows prolong
Thy steps on earth, and when by us resign'd
Thou join'st thy seniors, that heroic throng
Who rescu'd or preserv'd the rights of human kind,
O! not unworthy may thy Albion's tongue
Thee still, her friend and benefactor, name:
O! never, Haedly, in thy country's eyes,
May impious gold, or pleasure's gaudy prize,
Make public virtue, public freedom, vile;
Nor our own manners tempt us to disclaim
That heritage, our noblest wealth and fame,
Which Thou hast kept intire from force and factious guile.

ODE VIII.

I.
IF rightly tuneful bards decide,
If it be fix'd in love's decrees,
That beauty ought not to be tried
But by its native power to please,
Then tell me, youths and lovers, tell,
What fair can Amoret excell?

II.
Behold that bright unsullied smile,
And wisdom speaking in her mien:
Yet (she so artless all the while,
So little studious to be seen)
We nought but instant gladness know,
Nor think to whom the gift we owe.

III.
But neither music, nor the powers
Of youth and mirth and frolick cheer,
Add half that sunshine to the hours,
Or make life's prospect half so clear,
As memory brings it to the eye
From scenes where Amoret was by.

IV.
Yet not a satirist could there
Or fault or indiscretion find;
Nor any prouder sage declare
One virtue, pictur'd in his mind,
Whose form with lovelier colours glows
Than Amoret's demeanor shows.

V.
This sure is beauty's happiest part:
This gives the most unbounded sway:
This shall enchant the subject heart
When rose and lily fade away;
And she be still, in spite of time,
Sweet Amoret in all her prime.
ODE IX.

AT STUDY.

I.
WHITHER did my fancy stray?
By what magic drawn away
Have I left my studious theme?
From this philosophic page,
From the problems of the sage,
Wandering thro' a pleasing dream?

II.
'Tis in vain alas! I find,
Much in vain, my zealous mind
Would to learned wisdom's throne
Dedicate each thoughtful hour:
Nature bids a softer power
Claim some minutes for his own.

III.
Let the busy or the wise
View him with contemptuous eyes;
Love is native to the heart:
Guide its wishes as you will;
Without Love you'll find it still
Void in one essential part.

IV.
Me though no peculiar fair
Touches with a lover's care;
Though the pride of my desire
Asks immortal friendship's name,
Asks the palm of honest fame,
And the old heroic lyre;

V.
Though the day have smoothly gone,
Or to letter'd leisure known,
Or in social duty spent;
Yet at eve my lonely breast
Seeks in vain for perfect rest;
Languishes for true content.

ODE X.

TO THOMAS EDWARDS, ESQUIRE:

ON THE LATE EDITION OF
MR. POPE'S WORKS.

MDCCLI.

I.
BELIEVE me, Edwards, to restrain
The licence of a railer's tongue
Is what but seldom men obtain
By sense or wit, by prose or song:
A task for more Herculean powers,
Nor suited to the sacred hours
Of leisure in the Muse's bowers.
II.
In bowers where laurel weds with palm,
The Muse, the blameless queen, resides:
Fair fame attends, and wisdom calm
Her eloquence harmonious guides:
While, shut for ever from her gate,
Oft trying, still repining, wait
Fierce envy and calumnious hate.

III.
Who then from her delightful bounds
Would step one moment forth to heed
What impotent and savage sounds
From their unhappy mouths proceed?
No: rather Spenser's lyre again
Prepare, and let thy pious strain
For Pope's dishonor'd shade complain.

IV.
Tell how displeas'd was every bard,
When lately in the Elysian grove
They of his Muse's guardian heard,
His delegate to fame above;
And what with one accord they said
Of wit in drooping age mislead,
And Warburton's officious aid:

V.
How Virgil mourn'd the sordid fate
To that melodious lyre assign'd
Beneath a tutor who so late
With Midas and his [*] rout combin'd
By spiteful clamor to confound
That very lyre's enchanting sound,
Though listening realms admir'd around:

VI.
How Horace own'd he thought the fire
Of his friend Pope's satiric line
Did farther fuel scarce require
From such a militant divine:
How Milton scorn'd the sophist vain
Who durst approach his hallow'd strain
With unwash'd hands and lips profane.

VII.
Then Shakespear deboonnaire and mild
Brought that strange comment forth to view;
Conceits more deep, he said and smil'd,
Than his own fools or madmen knew:
But thank'd a generous friend above,
Who did with free adventurous love
Such pageants from his tomb remove.

49 pageants] trophies 1766 tomb] tomb 1766

[*] Stanza V.] During Mr. Pope's war with Theobald, Concanen, and the rest of their tribe, Mr. Warburton, the present Lord Bishop of Gloucester, did with great zeal cultivate their friendship; having been introduced, forsooth, at the meetings of that respectable confederacy: a favour which he afterwards spoke of in very high terms of complacency and thankfulness. At the same time in his intercourse with them he treated Mr. Pope in a most contemptuous manner, and as a writer without genius. Of the truth of these assertions his Lordship can have no doubt, if he recollects his own correspondence with Concanen; a part of which is still in being, and will probably be remembered as long as any of this prelate's writings.

† See the Canons of Criticism by Mr. EDWARDS.
VIII.
And if to Pope, in equal need,
The same kind office thou would'st pay,
Then, Edwards, all the band decreed
That future bards with frequent lay
Should call on thy auspicious name,
From each absurd intruder's claim
To keep inviolate their fame.

ODE XI.
TO THE
COUNTRY GENTLEMEN
OF ENGLAND.

MDCCCLVIII.

I.
WHITHER is Europe's ancient spirit fled?
Where are those valiant tenants of her shore,
Who from the warrior bow the strong dart sped,
Or with firm hand the rapid pole-ax bore?
Freeman and soldier was their common name.

Who late with reapers to the furrow came,
Now in the front of battle charg'd the foe:
Who taught the steer the wintry plow to indure,
Now in full councils check'd incroaching power,
And gave the guardian laws their majesty to know. 10

II.
But who are ye? from Ebro's loitering sons
To Tiber's pageants, to the sports of Seine;
From Rhine's frail palaces to Danube's thrones
And cities looking on the Cimbric main,
Ye lost, ye self-deserted? whose proud lords
Have baffled your tame hands, and given your swords
To slavish ruffians, hir'd for their command:
These, at some greedy monk's or harlot's nod,
See rifled nations crouch beneath their rod:
These are the public will, the reason of the land. 20

III.
Thou, heedless Albion, what, alas, the while
Dost thou presume? 0 inexpert in arms,
Yet vain of freedom, how dost thou beguile,
With dreams of hope, these near and loud alarms?
Thy splendid home, thy plan of laws renown'd,
The praise and envy of the nations round,
What care hast thou to guard from fortune's sway?
Amid the storms of war, how soon may all
The lofty pile from its foundations fall,
Of ages the proud toil, the ruin of a day:

9 in full councils] with stern counsel 1758a 10 And...know] And bade the gen'ral weal her scepter'd vassal know. 1758a: And gave the gen'ral weal its majesty to know. 1758b 11 loitering] sluggard 1758a 12 To...Seine] To Po, to wanton Loire and boasting Seine; 1758a 13 frail palaces] weak progeny 1758a 14 cities looking] the far bord'ers 1758a: cities bord'ring 1758b 15 Ye lost, ye] Abject and 1758a
IV.
No: thou art rich, thy streams and fertile vales
Add industry's wise gifts to nature's store:
And every port is crowded with thy sails,
And every wave throws treasure on thy shore.
What boots it? If luxurious plenty charm
Thy selfish heart from glory, if thy arm
Shrink at the frowns of danger and of pain,
Those gifts, that treasure is no longer thine.
Oh rather far be poor. Thy gold will shine
Tempting the eye of force, and deck thee to thy bane.

V.
But what hath force or war to do with thee?
Girt by the azure tide and thron'd sublime
Amid thy floating bulwarks, thou canst see,
With scorn, the fury of each hostile clime
Dash'd ere it reach thee. Sacred from the foe
Are thy fair fields, athwart thy guardian prow
No bold invader's foot shall tempt the strand—
Yet say, my country, will the waves and wind
Obey thee? Hast thou all thy hopes resign'd
To the sky's fickle faith? the pilot's wavering hand?

39-40 1758a and 1758b read
A coward's golden heaps malignant shine,
Bribing rapacious force to work their owner's bane.
VI.
For oh may neither fear nor stronger love
(Love, by thy virtuous princes nobly won)
Thee, last of many wretched nations, move,
With mighty armies station'd round the throne
To trust thy safety. Then, farewell the claims
Of freedom! Her proud records to the flames
Then bear, an offering at ambition's shrine;
Whate'er thy ancient patriots dar'd demand
From furious John's, or faithless Charles's hand,
Or what great William seal'd for his adopted line.

VII.
But if thy sons be worthy of their name,
If liberal laws with liberal hearts they prize,
Let them from conquest, and from servile shame
In war's glad school their own protectors rise.
Ye chiefly, heirs of Albion's cultur'd plains,
Ye leaders of her bold and faithful swains,
Now not unequal to your birth be found:
The public voice bids arm your rural state,
Paternal hamlets for your ensigns wait,
And grange and fold prepare to pour their youth around.

51-55 1758a reads
For let not—O! thy surest bane beware—
O! let not danger's threats, nor rev'rense won
By virtuous kings, seduce thee to prepare,
In armies ever waiting round the throne,
A wretched safety. Then, farewell thy claims

59 From...hand] From fierce Plantagenet's or Stuart's hand, 1758a, 1758b
VIII.
Why are ye tardy? what inglorious care
Detains you from their head, your native post?
Who most their country's fame and fortune share,
'Tis theirs to share her toils, her perils most.
Each man his task in social life sustains.
With partial labours, with domestic gains
Let others dwell: to you indulgent heaven
By counsel and by arms the public cause
To serve for public love and love's applause,
The first employment far, the noblest hire, hath given.

IX.
Have ye not heard of Lacedæmon's fame?
Of Attic chiefs in freedom's war divine?
Of Rome's dread generals? the Valerian name?
The Fabian sons? the Scipios, matchless line?
Your lot was theirs, the farmer and the swain
Met his lov'd patron's summons from the plain;
The legions gather'd; the bright eagles flew:
Barbarian monarchs in the triumph mourn'd;
The conquerors to their household gods return'd,
And fed Calabrian flocks, and steer'd the Sabine plough.

X.
Shall then this glory of the antique age,
This pride of men, be lost among mankind?
Shall war's heroic arts no more ingage
The unbought hand, the unsubjected mind?
Doth valour to the race no more belong?
No more with scorn of violence and wrong
Doth forming nature now her sons inspire,
That, like some mystery to few reveal'd,
The skill of arms abash'd and aw'd they yield,
And from their own defence with hopeless hearts retire?

XI.
O shame to human life, to human laws!
The loose adventurer, hireling of a day,
Who his fell sword without affection draws,
Whose God, whose country, is a tyrant's pay,
This man the lessons of the field can learn;
Can every palm, which decks a warrior, earn,
And every pledge of conquest: while in vain,
To guard your altars, your paternal lands,
Are social arms held out to your free hands:
Too arduous is the lore; too irksome were the pain.

XII.
Meantime by pleasure's lying tales allur'd,
From the bright sun and living breeze ye stray;
And deep in London's gloomy haunts immur'd,
Brood o'er your fortune's, freedom's, health's decay.

* e.g. two late marshalls of France.
O blind of choice and to yourselves untrue:
The young grove shoots, their bloom the fields renew,
The mansion asks its lord, the swains their friend;
While he doth riot's orgies haply share,
Or tempt the gamester's dark, destroying snare,
Or at some courtly shrine with slavish incense bend.

XIII.
And yet full oft your anxious tongues complain
That lawless tumult prompts the rustic throng;
That the rude village-inmates now disdain
Those homely ties which rul'd their fathers long.
Alas, your fathers did by other arts
Draw those kind ties around their simple hearts,
And led in other paths their ductile will;
By succour, faithful counsel, courteous cheer,
Won them the ancient manners to revere,
To prize their country's peace and heaven's due rites fulfill.

XIV.
But mark the judgement of experienc'd Time,
Tutor of nations. Doth light discord tear
A state? and impotent sedition's crime?
The powers of warlike prudence dwell not there;
The powers who to command and to obey,
Instruct the valiant. There would civil sway
The rising race to manly concord tame?

133 and impotent sedition's crime] and outrage? and sedition's crime?
1758a, 1758b  137 race] youth 1758a
Oft let the marshall'd field their steps unite,
And in glad splendor bring before their sight
One common cause and one hereditary fame.

XV.
Nor yet be aw'd, nor yet your task disown,
Though war's proud votaries look on severe;
Though secrets, taught erewhile to them alone,
They deem profan'd by your intruding ear.
Let them in vain, your martial hope to quell,
Of new refinements, fiercer weapons tell,
And mock the old simplicity, in vain:
To the time's warfare, simple or refin'd,
The time itself adapts the warrior's mind;
And equal prowess still shall equal palms obtain.

XVI.
Say then; if England's youth, in earlier days,
On glory's field with well-train'd armies vy'd,
Why shall they now renounce that generous praise?
Why dread the foreign mercenary's pride?
Though Valois brav'd young Edward's gentle hand,
And Albret rush'd on Henry's way-worn band,
With Europe's chosen sons in arms renown'd,
Yet not on Vere's bold archers long they look'd,
Nor Audley's squires nor Mowbray's yeomen brook'd:

They saw their standard fall, and left their monarch bound.
XVII.

Such were the laurels which your fathers won;
Such glory's dictates in their dauntless breast:
— Is there no voice that speaks to every son?
No nobler, holier call to You address'd?
O: by majestic freedom, righteous laws,
By heavenly truth's, by manly reason's cause,
Awake; attend; be indolent no more:
By friendship, social peace, domestic love,
Rise; arm; your country's living safety prove;
And train her valiant youth, and watch around her shore. 170

ODE XII.

ON RECOVERING FROM A FIT OF SICKNESS,

IN THE COUNTRY.

MDCCCLVIII.

I.

THY verdant scenes, 0 Goulder's hill,

Once more I seek, a languid guest:
With throbbing temples and with burden'd breast
Once more I climb thy steep aerial way.

O faithful cure of oft-returning ill,

Now call thy sprightly breezes round,
Dissolve this rigid cough profound,

And bid the springs of life with gentler movement play.
II.
How gladly 'mid the dews of dawn
My weary lungs thy healing gale,
The balmy west or the fresh north, inhale:
How gladly, while my musing footsteps rove
Round the cool orchard or the sunny lawn,
Awak'd I stop, and look to find
What shrub perfumes the pleasant wind,
Or what wild songster charms the Dryads of the grove.

III.
Now, ere the morning walk is done,
The distant voice of health I hear
Welcome as beauty's to the lover's ear.
"Droop not, nor doubt of my return," she cries;
"Here will I, 'mid the radiant calm of noon,
"Meet thee beneath yon Chesnut bower,
"And leniant on thy bosom pour
"That indolence divine which lulls the earth and skies."

IV.
The goddess promis'd not in vain.
I found her at my favorite time.
Nor wish'd to breathe in any softer clime,
While (half-reclin'd, half-slumbering as I lay)
She hover'd o'er me. Then, among her train
Of nymphs and zephers, to my view
Thy gracious form appear'd anew,
Then first, O heavenly Muse, unseen for many a day.
In that soft pomp the tuneful maid
Shone like the golden star of love.
I saw her hand in careless measures move;
I heard sweet preludes dancing on her lyre,
While my whole frame the sacred sound obey'd.
New sunshine o'er my fancy springs,
New colours clothe external things,
And the last glooms of pain and sickly plaint retire.

O Boulder's hill, by thee restor'd
Once more to this inliven'd hand,
My harp, which late resounded o'er the land
The voice of glory, solemn and severe,
My Dorian harp shall now with mild accord
To thee her joyful tribute pay,
And send a less-ambitious lay
Of friendship and of love to greet thy master's ear.

For when within thy shady seat
First from the sultry town he chose,
And the t'ir'd senate's cares, his wish'd repose,
Then wast thou mine; to me a happier home
For social leisure: where my welcome feet,
Estrang'd from all the intangling ways
In which the restless vulgar strays,

Through nature's simple paths with ancient faith might roam.
VIII.
And while around his sylvan scene
My Dyson led the white-wing'd hours,
Oft from the Athenian Academic bowers
Their sages came: oft heard our lingering walk
The Mantuan music warbling o'er the green:
And oft did Tully's reverend shade,
Though much for liberty afraid,
With us of letter'd ease or virtuous glory talk.

IX.
But other guests were on their way,
And reach'd erelong this favor'd grove;
Even the celestial progeny of Jove,
Bright Venus, with her all-subduing son,
Whose golden shaft most willingly obey
The best and wisest. As they came,
Glad Hymen wav'd his genial flame,
And sang their happy gifts, and prais'd their spotless throne.

X.
I saw when through yon festive gate
He led along his chosen maid
And to my friend with smiles presenting said;
"Receive that fairest wealth which heaven assign'd
"To human fortune. Did thy lonely state
"One wish, one utmost hope confess?
"Behold, she comes, to adorn and bless:
"Comes, worthy of thy heart, and equal to thy mind."
ODE XIII.

TO THE AUTHOR OF MEMOIRS OF THE HOUSE
OF BRANDENBURGH: [*]

MDCCCLI.

I.

THE men renown'd as chiefs of human race,
And born to lead in counsels or in arms,
Have seldom turn'd their feet from glory's chase
To dwell with books or court the Muse's charms.
Yet, to our eyes if haply time hath brought
Some genuine transcript of their calmer thought,
There still we own the wise, the great, or good;
And Cesar there and Xenophon are seen,
As clear in spirit and sublime of mien,
As on Pharsalian plains, or by the Assyrian flood.

[1772a 1772b 1772c 1772d]

[1772a 1772b Title: TO THE AUTHOR &c. 1772a, 1772b]

[In the year 1751 appeared a very splendid edition, in quarto, of "Memoires pour servir a l'Histoire de la Maison de Brandebourg, a Berlin & a la Haye; with a privilege signed FEDERIC; the same being engraved in imitation of hand-writing. In this edition, among other extraordinary passages, are the two following, to which the third stanza of this ode more particularly refers:

Page 163.] Il se fit une migration (the author is speaking of what happened on the revocation of the edict of Nantes) dont on n'avait guere vu d'exemples dans l'histoire: un peuple entier sortit du royaume par l'esprit de parti en haine du pape, & pour recevoir sous un autre ciel la communion sous les deux especes: quatre cens mille ames s'expatrierent ainsi & abandonnerent tous leur biens pour detonner dans d'autres temples les vieux pseuames de Clement Marot.

Page 242.] La crainte donna le jour a la credulite, & l'amour propre interessa bientot le ciel au destin des hommes.
II.
Say thou too, Frederic, was not this thy aim?
Thy vigils could the student's lamp ingage,
Except for this? except that future fame
Might read thy genius in the faithful page?
That if hereafter envy shall presume
With words irreverent to inscribe thy tomb,
And baser weeds upon thy palms to fling,
That hence posterity may try thy reign,
Assert thy treaties, and thy wars explain,
And view in native lights the hero and the king.

III.
O evil foresight and pernicious care!
Wilt thou indeed abide by this appeal?
Shall we the lessons of thy pen compare
With private honor or with public zeal?
Whence then at things divine those darts of scorn?
Why are the woes, which virtuous men have borne
For sacred truth, a prey to laughter given?
What fiend, what foe of nature urg'd thy arm
The Almighty of his scepter to disarm?
To push this earth adrift and leave it loose from heaven?

IV.
Ye godlike shades of legislators old,
Ye who made Rome victorious, Athens wise,
Ye first of mortals with the bless'd inroll'd,
Say did not horror in your bosoms rise,
When thus by impious vanity impell'd
A magistrate, a monarch, ye beheld
Affronting civil order's holiest bands?
Those bands which ye so labor'd to improve?
Those hopes and fears of justice from above,
Which tam'd the savage world to your divine commands?

ODE XIV.

THE COMPLAINT.

I.
AWAY! Away!

Tempt me no more, insidious love:
Thy soothing sway
Long did my youthful bosom prove:
At length thy treason is discern'd,
At length some dear-bought caution earn'd:
Away! nor hope my riper age to move.

II.
I know, I see
Her merit. Needs it now be shewn,
Alas, to me?
How often, to myself unknown,
The graceful, gentle, virtuous maid
Have I admir'd! How often said,
What joy to call a heart like her's one's own!
III.
But, flattering god,

O squanderer of content and ease,

In thy abode
Will care's rude lesson learn to please?

O say, deceiver, hast thou won,

Proud fortune to attend thy throne,

Or plac'd thy friends above her stern decrees?

ODE XV.
ON DOMESTIC MANNERS.
[UNFINISHED.]

1.
MEEK honor, female shame,

O: whither, sweetest offspring of the sky,

From Albion dost thou fly;

Of Albion's daughters once the favorite fame?

O beauty's only friend,

Who giv' st her pleasing reverence to inspire;

Who selfish, bold desire

Dost to esteem and dear affection turn;

Alas, of thee forlorn

What joy, what praise, what hope can life pretend?
II.
Behold; our youths in vain
Concerning nuptial happiness inquire:
Our maids no more aspire
The arts of bashful Hymen to attain;
But with triumphant eyes
And cheeks impassive, as they move along.
Ask homage of the throng.
The lover swears that in a harlot's arms
Are found the self-same charms,
And worthless and deserted lives and dies.

III.
Behold; unblest'd at home,
The father of the cheerless household mourns:
The night in vain returns,
For love and glad content at distance roam;
While she, in whom his mind
Seeks refuge from the day's dull task of cares,
To meet him she prepares,
Through noise and spleen and all the gamester's art,
A listless, harrass'd heart,
Where not one tender thought can welcome find.

IV.
'Twas thus, along the shore
Of Thames, Britannia's guardian Genius heard,
From many a tongue preferr'd,
Of strife and grief the fond invective lore:
At which the queen divine
Indignant, with her adamantine spear
Like thunder sounding near,
Smote the red cross upon her silver shield,
And thus her wrath reveal'd.
(I watch'd her awful words and made them mine.)
ODES, ATTRIBUTED TO AKENSIDE.
ODE I.

HORACE, B. iii. ODE I.

I hate the vulgar, the profane,
Far hence: ye rude unhallow'd train:
Let silence wait the sacred song,
While I, the Muse's laurell'd priest,
Instruct the young, unspotted breast,
Which yet no guilty cares invest,
In strains unknown before to any poet's tongue.

Let subject lands revere the throne;
Let scepter'd kings their sov'reign own
Olympian Jove; the thunderer-god;
By whom the earth-born monsters fell,
While earth and ocean, heav'n and hell
Shrink from his awful eye, and tremble at his nod.

Mortals with various gifts by heav'n are blest;
On this perhaps is wealth profuse bestow'd;
This is of virtue and of fame confest;
This of illustrious fathers vainly proud:
Each with his friends and party train,
Contends his rival wishes to obtain;
Alas! how foolish is the strife!
How vain the fears and hopes of life!
One urn contains the great and small,
The mighty and the mean;
Each must obey when fate shall call,
And the same exit shuts the various scene.

Since then no art eludes the rage of death,
Nor sighs nor tears protract the fleeting breath;
Why still that cloud upon thy brow?
When courting joys attend to day,
And scenes of circling bliss around thee play,
Why dost thou fright the genial hours away?
Why dash the present joy with dread of future woe?

The wretch that fears th' o'er-hanging sword,
Heeds not the banquet on the board;
Art has not charms to please his taste;
Not all the rapture of the lyre,
Nor all the warbling sylvan quire,
Can lull to sleep the trembling guest:
For Sleep's serene propitious power
Loves the calm cottage and the bower;
Sleep o'er the careless guiltless swain,
Thro' Tempe's boughs, where zephyrs blow,
And murmuring rills descend below,
Sheds the soft blessings of his reign.

Him whose desires the wants of nature bound,
The trivial rage of fortune ne'er shall wound:
He may behold, with peaceful eye,
The roaring sea, the raging sky:
His happy breast nor barren soils,
Ungrateful to the rustick's toils;
Nor harvests blasted by the storm,
Nor suns that burn the iron plain,
Nor sinking floods of sordid rain,
With one uneasy thought shall ruffle or deform.

But where will licens'd wishes end?
See: o'er the deep projected moles extend,
And of their haunts deprive the finny shoals;
See: o'er the labours of his pride,
While trembling slaves attend his side,
The master's eye elate with pleasure rolls.

But soon this short-liv'd gleam is past,
Soon rising fears his joys o'ercast;
And wakeful care forbids him long to rest;
Care steers his painted galley's course,
Care mounts behind him on the horse,
Haunts all his ways, and stings his tortur'd breast.

Since then not all that wealth can boast
Of treasures drawn from every coast,
Not Phrygia's marble, nor Falernum's bowl,
Since not Arabia's richest stores,
Nor all the pride of Tyrian shores,
Can heal the anguish of the soul:
Why should I change my humble cell?
Why the low roofs, where peace can dwell,
Enlarge for discontent and pain?
Why for the joyless dream of state,
Dangers that still pursue the great,
Thro' the fell maze of envy and deceit,
Forsake my blissful ease, my smiling Sabine plain?

Ode II.

An Ode, July, 1740.

FROM pompous life's dull masquerade,
   From pride's pursuits, and passion's war,
   Far, my CORDELIA, very far!
To thee and me may Heaven assign,
The silent pleasures of the shade,
The joys of peace, unenvied, though divine.

Safe in the calm embowering grove,
   As thy own lovely brow serene;
   Behold the world's fantastic scene!
What low pursuits employ the great,
What tinsel things their wishes move,
The forms of Fashion, and the toys of State.

ODE II. An Ode, July, 1740. 1808 Title: An Ode, July, 1740. ms. : TO CORDELIA. July, MDCCXL. 1808 12 State.] ~, 1808
In vain are all CONTENTMENT'S charms,
Her placid mien, her cheerful eye,
For look, CORDELIA, how they fly:
Allured by Power, Applause, or Gain,
They fly her kind protecting arms;
Ah, blind to pleasure, and in love with pain:

Turn and indulge a fairer view,
Smile on the joys which here conspire;
0 joys harmonious as my lyre:
0 prospect of enchanting things,
As ever slumbering Poet knew
When Love and Fancy wrapt him in their wings.

Here, no rude storm of passion blows,
But sports, and smiles, and virtues play,
Cheer'd by affection's purest ray;
The air still breathes contentment's balm,
And the clear stream of pleasure flows
For ever active, yet for ever calm.
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O rustic herald of the spring

Queen of my songs, harmonious maid

Say, Townshend, what can London boast

The men renown'd as chiefs of human race

The radiant ruler of the year

The wise and great of every clime

Thou silent power, whose welcome sway

Thrice hath the spring beheld thy faded fame

Thy verdant scenes, O Cumberland's Hill

To-night retir'd the queen of heaven

Whither did my fancy stray

Whither is Europe's ancient spirit fled

With sordid floods the wintry Urn

Yes: you contemn the perjur'd maid
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* Primary sources for Akenside's Odes are given in the list of sigla on p. lix.


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2. Other Works*


* This list consists of works most helpful for the general background of the introductory sections.