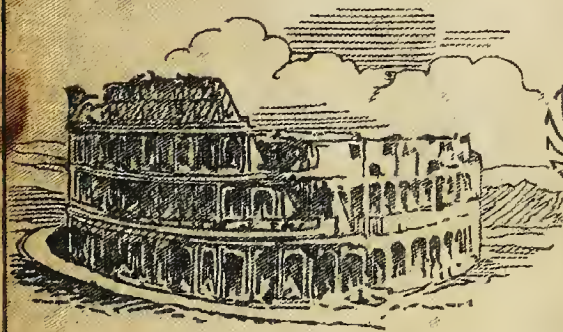


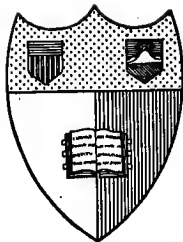
LORD BYRON  
VINDICATED;



OR,

ROME

AND HER  
\* PILGRIM \*



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# Lord Byron Vindicated;

OR,

## Rome and her Pilgrim.

BY

A large, stylized handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Manfred". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned centrally below the author's name.

"And if my voice break forth, 'tis not that now  
I shrink from what is suffer'd: let him speak  
Who hath beheld decline upon my brow,  
Or seen my mind's convulsion leave it weak;  
But in this page a record will I seek.  
Not in the air shall these my words disperse,  
Though I be ashes; a far hour shall wreak  
The deep prophetic fulness of this verse,  
And pile on human heads the mountain of my curse!"  
[Byron's "Childe Harold": Canto IV; Stanza CXXXV.]

London:

SIMPKIN, MARSHALL & CO., STATIONERS' HALL COURT.  
1876.

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# Author's Preface.



"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." — St. John: Chap. XV; v. 13.

*I beg the favor of some explanatory words with the reader of the following pages.*

*I have willingly lain down my life for the noble Spirit whom I devotedly love. It is true I live to pen these lines, but the vitality, the strong principle of physical life has been lost, perhaps forever, in this cause.*

Many will rejoice that my victory, if won, has been so dearly bought—many, too, I feel will sorrow, and to these I proffer my heartfelt gratitude.

If, by the sacrifice I have made, a great wrong be righted, and "The Pilgrim's" prophecy, after a lapse of more than half a century, find its predestined fulfilment in this generation, when scarce a single witness survives who can recall, in memory, that mighty Genius who walked for a brief space, as it were, "among them but not of them," I am repaid.

As with impaired and failing health I look back upon the Past, retracing the course that the

voice of Conscience and of Duty impelled me to pursue, I find nothing there which I would change were I again to perform my weary but not ungrateful task.

One favor, only, will I request of my critics. Let them not misjudge this Preface, nor misrepresent the purpose of my work; for, as I hope for peace beyond those golden gates which seem not now afar, I have had no other motive in this than to defend a noble and innocent man against imputations I believe as unfounded as they are abhorrent.

It may be urged by mine enemies that the statement of acknowledged facts is not, properly speaking, a "Vindication." In the mere technical

sense of the term this may be true; but in that far higher sense, wherein the appeal for Truth and Justice is carried before the tribunal of the heart, I claim that the title I have chosen is no misnomer. My purpose has not been to support, by legal proof, facts already accepted by the People, but to express, in language which shall bear the test of time, the convictions of the vast majority of the masses, both upon British and American soil.

I have unsheathed from its deep-rusted scabbard the once bright blade of Truth — a blade which has scarce been drawn since the valiant hand, now cold in Death, resigned its lingering grasp. He

warred against Hypocrisy and Guilt in high places as in low: in the cause of Right, I, however unworthy, have dared to strike one more blow against the social Hydra he assailed and not in vain.

The general cry of Envy and of Malice, the portion of all truly great men, has died with that generation which has long since passed away; but it seemed reserved for this later day to furnish an example of that odious desecration of the memory of the dead, which, like the subtle venom of the serpent, tends to inoculate its victim with a virus as insidious as it is baleful in its effects.

The time is come when men refuse to believe so

crisel a tale attacking the honor of the poet who stands perhaps second only to Shakespeare amid the many Sons of Song that Britannia may proudly call her own. The great Spirit of Byron dwells with us but in memory, yet methinks that this memory alone should have evoked some voice to shield it from the mercilessness of a living assailant.

With such as these I waste no words; since

"Time! the corrector where our judgments err,"

will trace their lasting epitaphs—Futurity bestows her fadeless crown not on the merciless but on the just.

Numerous biographies have been written of

Byron, but few, if any, present a faithful portraiture of his wonderful, and in many respects unequalled, mind, with its multiform aspects, powers and capabilities — with its chameleon-like changes "from grave to gay," from the deepest pathos to the merriest mirth. I must however except from this class the "Life of Lord Byron" by Thomas Moore, (his loved and intimate friend), which, with few exceptions, forms a touching tribute to his noble and unaffected nature. Frank and artless as a child, when in the society of those in whom he had learned to trust and to confide, he unveiled to Moore much which was concealed from the world by the delicacy of a soul of almost unparalleled

*depth and sensitivity, which shrank from contact with the coarse and selfish natures by which it was surrounded.*

*One other pen has accorded yet fuller justice to the man as he appeared to those who knew him best; I allude to that of the late Countess Guiccioli, who was probably more intimately acquainted with the actual Byron than was any other person beside his beloved sister Augusta, and his friends Hobhouse and Moore. In her book, entitled "My Recollections of Lord Byron," etc., she has drawn the man as he appeared when freed from those murky vapors with which the malice of foes, the envy of inferiors and the voice of vulgar*



*prejudice, strove to surround him. No juster nor more critical analysis of the character of Byron has yet appeared than the production of this distinguished and gifted lady.*

*The object of my work requires no further explanation than a reference to its title-page will supply.*

*As the question may arise, "why so large a proportion of the poem has been devoted to Roman History and monuments of ancient Architecture and Art?" I reply as follows:—*

*Firstly, because with the great subject of "Rome," the sympathies and interests of all*

educated societies must be forever blended; no subject, therefore, is better calculated to lend a lasting value to any meritorious effort which may treat of these magnificent ruins of the mightiest Empire of the Past.

Secondly, because no vindication of any person or persons, nor refutation of ungrounded calumnies — no matter how powerful, or just, such vindication may be — can, by itself, escape the character of a lampoon, and, as such, its chances of perpetuity of fame must be vastly inferior to those of the same matter when blended with a subject of undying interest, such as the past of "The Eternal City" certainly is. A coalition of this nature, if

*properly sustained, must confer a dignity upon the whole, which would otherwise be wanting in its parts.*

*Thirdly, because it was in Rome, amid those glorious relics of antique Art, that her unbroken but fainting "Pilgrim" pronounced the majestic prophecy of his future vindication, and triumph over relentless foes, which has given the fourth Canto of "Childe Harold" perhaps the very highest place among all poems of modern time.*

*The grand and rhythmical flow of the "Spenserian Stanza" (the measure likewise of "Childe Harold"), has been of inestimable aid*

to me in my work, despite the difficulties of its mechanical construction, from the harmony existing between the thought and its form of expression. It seems, indeed, peculiarly adapted to those subjects which must necessarily combine dignity of style with force of diction.

I have finished: if this, my work, be worthy, it will live — if unworthy, it must fall; — that Truth may prove triumphant is the prayer of

*Manfred*



-- " his virtues

Will plead like angels, trumpet-tongued, against  
The deep damnation of his taking-off;  
And pity, like a naked, new-born babe,  
Striding the blast, or heaven's cherubim, horsed  
Upon the sightless couriers of the air,  
Shall blow the horrid deed in every eye,  
That tears shall drown the wind."

[Shakespeare's "Macbeth:" Act I; Scene VII.



## Prose Dedication.

---

TO the memory of her with whose welfare the gentlest sympathies and affections of that noble Being, it is the purpose of the present poem to place in his true light before the world, were inseparably blended, I inscribe this humble offering at the shrine of eternal Truth — to her whom the poet describes as

“Ada! sole daughter of my house and heart!”

[“*Childe Harold* :” *Canto III.*

With this fair offspring of an ill-starred alliance his brightest hopes were forever united; she was, with the exception of a beloved sister, the only living thing to which his tortured heart could turn in its dark and bitter hours of solitude and bereavement.

About this beautiful child, Byron’s deep and passionate nature twined its tendrils of affection with an intensity of feeling few may either fathom or understand; she was as his own words most aptly express, but with regard to another,

“The ocean to the river of his thoughts, which terminated all:” etc.

[“*The Dream.*”

In exile it was to his absent darling that his seared but loving heart ever turned, with fond and ungovernable yearnings.

It is meet, therefore, that this strain whose aim it is to dispel forever those shadows which Bigotry, Misconception, Envy and Malice, have cast about the fame and fortunes of Byron — that surpassing Genius whose gigantic intellect dwarfed and dwindled the galaxy of lesser stars surrounding him — it is meet this tardy, but perhaps not all unworthy, retribution should bear the name and sanction of that sweet daughter whose young life was shortened by the knowledge of the cruel persecution which drove *him* forth, who should have shone the “bright, particular star” of his native land, to be a wanderer upon the face of the earth and a stranger amid strangers.

To the memory of that “Ada,” (the late Lady Lovelace), with sentiments of the deepest reverence and respect, I dedicate this vindication of her injured father’s memory.

THE AUTHOR.



# Poetical Dedication.

To Ada.<sup>(1)</sup>

“**A**DA! sole daughter of my house and heart!”<sup>(2)</sup>  
Nay! not of mine — of one more doubly dear,  
Through whose high destinies thou play'd a part,  
Inseparably blended — everywhere  
Pledge present through all absence! let me here  
Invoke thy sunny Spirit by the shame  
Done thy defenceless sire; <sup>(3)</sup> and if a tear  
Bedim, the while, this eye, thou wilt not blame,  
Nor deem it Woman's weakness which thus hail'st thy  
name!

---

(1) The late Lady Lovelace, daughter of Lord Byron.

(2) *Byron's "Childe Harold:" Canto III; Stanza I.*

(3)

— “unmerciful Disaster

Followed fast and followed faster

Till his songs one burden bore —

Till the dirges of his Hope that



## To Ada.

'TIS a sad tear of Sorrow, link'd with Love;  
 Sorrow for him — Love for his cherish'd child!  
 Thou tender nursling, timid as the dove,  
 Heiress of his starr'd <sup>(1)</sup> Spirit, unbeguiled  
 By those who would have warp'd thee and defiled  
 Thy father's mem'ry! I would fain entwine  
 Thy name with this, my lay — so be it styled  
 Thy song, sweet girl, and as a spell divine  
 That thought shall mould my strain — e'en lighten <sup>(2)</sup>  
 through each line!`

---

Melancholy burden bore  
 Of 'Never — nevermore.'  
 [Poe's "Raven."

- 
- (1) "Or that *starr'd* Æthiop queen," etc.  
 [Milton's "*Il Penseroso*."  
 (2) "And the wild sparkle of his eye seem'd caught  
 From high, and *lighten'd* with electric thought," etc.  
 [Byron's "*Lara*:" Canto I.

## To Ada. <sup>(1)</sup>

**T**HEN wherefore blindly weep — Thou be'st but blest  
 In far escapement from Eld's <sup>(2)</sup> earthly ill! <sup>(3)</sup>  
 Love warmly woos thee! — leave that rapturous  
     rest  
 To weave fond fancies which would work thy  
     will! —  
 They tempt thee from thy fold, thus to fulfill  
 Pure Virtue's prayer! Nor need I plead in vain —

(1) [It will be noticed that the alliteration of this stanza is perfect — being either double, triple, quadruple, quintuple or sextuple, in each line; no individual line being required a second time in order to furnish from the stanza all the above-mentioned alliterations. — E.]

(2) Old Age.

(3) "And with the ills of *Eld* mine earlier years alloy'd."

[Byron's "*Childe Harold*:" *Canto II*: *Stanza XC VIII*.

"As feeling wondrous comfort in her weaker *eld*:" etc.

[Spenser's "*Faerie Queene*:" *Book I*; *Canto X*.

A magic spell surrounds me, soft and still,  
 Freighted with Inspiration, while I fain  
 Would greet its gentle birth which melts in Beauty's  
 main! (1)

(1) As a fitting concomitant to the foregoing lines of invocation for inspirational aid — addressed to the bright and changeless idol of Byron's devotion — I append his own eloquent declaration of that one absorbing passion which no mortal pen, save his alone, could so exquisitely portray: —

"Is thy face like thy mother's, my fair child!  
 Anna! sole daughter of my house and heart?  
 When last I saw thy young blue eyes they smil'd,  
 And then we parted, — not as now we part,  
 But with a hope, —

Awaking with a start,  
 The waters heave around me; and on high  
 The winds lift up their voices: I depart,  
 Whither I know not; but the hour's gone by.  
 When Albion's heaving shores could grieve or glad  
 mine eye.

\* \* \* \* \*  
 "My daughter! with thy name this song begun —  
 My daughter! with thy name thus much shall end —  
 I see thee not, — I hear thee not, — but none  
 Can he so wrap't in thee; thou art the friend  
 To whom the shadows of far years extend:  
 Albeit my brow thou never should'st behold,  
 My voice shall with thy future visions blend,  
 And reach into thy heart, — when mine is cold, —  
 A token and a tone, even from thy father's mould.

"To aid thy mind's development, — to watch  
 Thy dawn of little joys, — to sit and see  
 Almost thy very growth, — to view thee catch  
 Knowledge of objects, — wonders yet to thee!

To hold thee lightly on a gentle knee,  
 And print on thy soft cheek a parent's kiss, —  
 This, it should seem, was not reserved for me;  
 Yet this was in my nature; — as it is,  
 I know not what is there, yet something like to this.

"Yet, though dull Hate as duty should be taught,  
 I know that thou w'dst love me; though my name  
 Should be shut from thee, as a spell still fraught  
 With desolation, — and a broken claim: — [same,  
 Though the grave closed between us, — 'were the  
 I know that thou wilt love me; though to drain  
 My blood from out thy being were an aim,  
 And an attainment, — all would be in vain, —  
 Still thou would'st love me, still that more than life  
 retain.

"The child of love, — though born in bitterness  
 And nurtured in convulsion. Of thy sire  
 These were the elements, — and thine no less.  
 As yet such arc around thee, — hut thy fire  
 Shall be more temper'd, and thy hope far higher.  
 Sweet be thy cradled slumbers! O'er the sea,  
 And from the mountains where I now respire,  
 E'en would I waft such blessing upon thee,  
 As, with a sigh, I deem thou might'st have been to me."

[Byron's "Childs Harold: " Canto III; Stanzas I, CXXV, CXXVI, CXXVII, CXXVIII.





“ We rule the hearts of mightiest men — we rule  
With a despotic sway all giant minds.  
We are not impotent — we pallid stones.  
Not all our power is gone — not all our fame —  
Not all the magic of our high renown —  
Not all the wonder that encircles us —  
Not all the mysteries that in us lie —  
Not all the memories that hang upon  
And cling around about us as a garment,  
Clothing us in a robe of more than glory.”

[Poe's "Coliseum."]





# Lord Byron Vindicated;

OR,

Rome and her Pilgrim.



CANTO THE FIRST.



" Sic est: acerba fata Romanus agunt,  
Scelusque fraternus nocis;  
Ut immerentis fluxit in terram Remi  
Sacer nepotibus cruor."

[Horace: Lib. V; Ode VII.]





# Lord Byron Vindicated.

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CANTO THE FIRST.

---

Rome.

TITANIC Mother! whose heroic race,  
Nurtured in arms, first birthright of the soil,  
Conquer'd unconquer'd Nations! where *their* place  
And *thine*, dismantl'd mourner? Of their toil  
The arch'd memorial from the Victor's spoil  
Alone remaineth, and the ivied wall  
Tellet all Time thy glory whose recoil  
Mankind bewaileth with thee, for thy fall  
Hath shatter'd unborn Empires waiting but thy call!

## Rome.

WHERE now thy vanish'd glories, and the Car  
Wherein th' empurpl'd Victor met the gaze  
Of Rome's free populace, when, from afar,  
The trump announc'd the Triumph's splendid  
blaze?  
Where, where are these? O, light of latter days!  
Can'st thou not pierce the shadows of their tomb,  
And rouse yon mighty phantoms?—Lo! their bays  
Bloom with perennial freshness, for the Womb  
Of Earth claims not their *Spirits* which all Time  
illumine!

CANTO I.

*Rome.*

**T**HE pilgrim still revisits thy lone halls  
And lonelier altars, where the Pagan throng  
Flock'd to fantastic worship which appalls  
The later Christian! Say! was it a wrong,  
This Pantheistic shadow? Was their song  
Meant not to worship Nature? Yea! the sense  
Of high Omnipotence was theirs; the thong  
Which bound their Reason was a spell intense,  
Fraught not with Crime, but Error, and a just defence

## Rome.

'GAINST Atheistic tenets which deny  
Aught save a soulless Law which darkly guides  
This million-orb'd Creation, or defy,  
To proof, the Soul's existence which abides  
In inner Consciousness whose secret tides  
Teem with immortal Reason! Was it not  
A just Religion, and is he, who prides  
Himself on riper wisdom and a lot  
Cast in a brighter day, to deem God was forgot?

CANTO I.

## Greece.

WHEN, from her tripod, the pale Pythoness <sup>(1)</sup>  
Evolv'd the scheme of Empires, in the mind  
Of Greece thy glories dwelt not!— If Distress  
Were canopied above her 'twas a kind  
Of natural Retribution, for we find  
Each star's dim declination doth succeed  
Its too meridian splendour!— God design'd  
Man in His holy image, yet decreed  
The doom of guilty Sodom to the Serpent's seed!—

---

(1) A name given to the Priestess of the Delphic Oracle.

## Greece.

AND what, forsooth, hath been this serpent seed?  
 The hateful lust of Power, and those things  
 That do debase our natures. Have we need  
 To yield those mightier prospects which the wings  
 Of bright Intelligence may mount, where rings  
 A psalmody whose whispers fall like strains  
 Of most celestial music? Ah! there clings,  
 Despite Man's degradation, the remains  
 Of bright Remembrance which Earth's fetters still dis-  
 dains! (1)

---

(1) "Spurning the clay-cold bonds which round our being cling,"

[Byron's "*Childe Harold*:" *Canto III*; *Stanza LXXIII*.

The resemblance which may be traced between these passages is accidental, so far as plagiarism is concerned. It is, perhaps, not remarkable that the sublime sentiments pervading a poem like "*Childe Harold*" should make a pro-

CANTO I.

## Greece.

YET Greece! Fair Greece! if that thy hope were  
marr'd

By mockeries like these—if a dark fate  
Bound thee in its fell bands until thy starr'd,  
High destiny succumb'd, I will not prate

---

found and lasting impression upon the mind, and more particularly so with one whose existence passes, for the greater part, in an ideal world: such is the Poet. During the composition of this poem the author has purposely refrained from the perusal of such portions of "Childe Harold" as bore more particularly upon his own theme; nevertheless, *accidental* resemblances may doubtless be discovered in the sentiment, but never in the words unless acknowledged by marks of quotation. It would, indeed, be more singular did the seed sown long since in the Mind's fertility yield no return after its long incubation, and more especially when one's powers are concentrated in the production of a somewhat similar poetical composition. Regarding any possible charge of plagiarism I can do no better than append the words of Sir Walter Scott:—

"It is a favorite theme of laborious dullness to trace such coincidences, because they appear to reduce genius of the higher order to the usual standard of humanity, and of course to bring the author nearer to a level with his critics."

The worn and oft-told moral, nor dilate  
 On that which might have been had'st thou for-  
     sworn  
 Unnatural Ambition — the deep Hate  
 'Twixt Athens and brave Sparta: though we  
     mourn  
 Thy sad and early fall, 'tis much that thou wert  
     born! (1)

---

(1) "Clime of the unforgotten brave!  
 Whose land from plain to mountain-cave  
 Was Freedom's home or Glory's grave!  
 Shrine of the mighty! can it be,  
 That this is all remains of thee?  
 \* \* \* \* \*  
 'Twere long to tell, and sad to trace,  
 Each step from splendour to disgrace;  
 Enough — no foreign foe could quell  
 Thy soul, till from itself it fell;  
 Yes! Self-abasement paved the way  
 To villain-bonds and despot sway." [Byron's "*Giaour*."



CANTO I.

**Lucius Junius Brutus.**

**B**RUTUS, the first of Consuls! in thy name  
Nobility seems centred! When the slave,  
Black-hearted Sextus, won a felon's fame,  
And wrong'd Lucretia sought within the grave  
To hide her Soul's dishonor — when the wave  
Of Rome's wide indignation pour'd a flood,  
And proved the Sibyl of the mountain cave,  
Then, *thou* did'st scourge from thence the scorpion  
brood,  
And, midst Fame's noblest sons, a mightier hero stood!

## Lucius Junius Brutus.

THE Sibyl spake — “ *A fool shall set Rome free!* ”<sup>(1)</sup>  
 Oh, noble Brutus! in thee Time fulfill’d  
 Her ancient prophecy! Oft, oft we see  
 Slight means speed mightiest ends; the proudly  
 skill’d  
 Are not His chosen instruments; instill’d  
 In simplest bosoms seems prophetic store  
 Which acts through Inspiration; <sup>(2)</sup> they that build  
 But on their gather’d wisdom err the more: —  
 Not from the brain, but *heart*, flow’d Shakespeare’s  
 matchless lore!<sup>(3)</sup>

---

(1) “ The race of Tarquins shall be kings  
 Till a fool drive them hence and set Rome free ! ”

[ *Payne’s “ Brutus : ” Act I ; Scene III.*

(2) “ No will of your own with its puny compulsion  
 Can summon the spirit that quickens the lyre ;

CANTO I.

## Lucius Junius Brutus.

PARENT, but sterner Judge! On that fell night  
 When Treason leagued with the Etrurian foe,  
 Amidst the outlaw'd band, in thy fond sight  
 Shamed and undone did thy twin nurslings show!—  
 Then was thy great heart bow'd — each bitter  
     three  
 Pleading a father's nature!—sternly just,  
 The horrid sentence fell, but hoarse and low,  
 Whilst they that listen'd quail'd — the awful trust  
 Fulfill'd, thy Spirit sank all prostrate in the dust!

It comes, if at all, like the Sibyl's convulsion  
 And touches the brain with a finger of fire."

[*Holmes, in January "Atlantic," 1876.*

(<sup>3</sup>) [Note to page 10.]

"But Shakespeare's magic could not copied be;  
 Within that circle none durst walk but he."

[*Dryden's "Tempest:" Prologue.*

## Lucius Junius Brutus.

FOR thee the pious matron mourneth long  
In sackcloth and in ashes, whilst the tone  
Of Revelry is hush'd — the happy song  
Dies on the whisp'ring wind! — thou who alone  
Wert Heaven's chosen instrument, when grown  
To an unjust proportion Royal Law  
O'erstepp'd the bounds of Freedom whose fair  
zone  
Admits no base curtailment, art no more: —  
Sleep, noble Brutus! Rome reveres the name thou bore!

CANTO I.

## Cincinnatus.

“GIVE me that man that is not Passion’s slave!” (1)  
Thus spake the Danish Prince with satire keen.  
Hail, Cincinnatus! borne o’er Adria’s wave  
To every clime hath thy discretion been;  
Thy name hath grown a watchword, and the scene,  
The theatre of Glory which thou trod,  
Awhile its chiefest actor, with a mien  
Where majesty and grace bespoke the God,  
May boast no loftier son than he who till’d her sod!

---

(1) *Shakespeare’s “Hamlet:” Act III; Scene II.*

## Napoleon.

THE Ploughshare and the Sword ! Ill-mated pair,  
Forged of a kindred steel to serve or slay  
By Man, Creation's tyrant, whose chief care  
Hath ever been to blight his brother's day  
With Fire, Rapine and Slaughter — to obey  
The tiger's native instinct; — such was he,  
The modern Gallic Cæsar, who did prey  
'Pon Europe's wretched millions, 'mid a sea  
Of Carnage, till he fell by Fortune's just decree!

CANTO I.

Napoleon.

WHENCE springs this thirst for Slaughter which  
hath lain  
Earth's proud and populous Nations prone in  
dust—  
Which gloats above the mountains of the slain,  
Or revels in the Conqueror's sateless lust?  
Napoleon! such wast thou! Though urn and bust  
Groan 'neath thy gather'd greatness, Time shall  
tell  
Thy guilt-emblazon'd story; and the crust,  
The bitter bread of Poverty whose hell  
Engulfs the wretched Starveling—those lost Souls that  
sell

## Napoleon.

THEIR birthright of salvation — bitterer grow  
 That *thou* hast warr'd and wasted! Yea! thy name  
 Be coupled with a curse, for thou did'st sow  
 The seeds of Desolation, whence thy fame  
 Shall reap a thistle-harvest where the shame  
 Shall choke thy blooming Glory! 'Pon thine urn,  
 As in Belshazzar's hall of yore, in flame  
 Is traced a destiny! — The letters burn, [learn! <sup>(1)</sup>  
 Whereon Mankind shall gaze, and thy dark lesson

(1) " In that same hour and hall,  
 The fingers of a hand  
 Came forth against the wall,  
 And wrote as if on sand :  
 The fingers of a man ; —  
 A solitary hand  
 Along the letters ran,  
 And traced them like a wand.

\* \* \* \* \*

" Belshazzar's grave is made,  
 His kingdom pass'd away,  
 He, in the balance weigh'd,  
 Is light and worthless clay.  
 The shroud, his robe of state,  
 His canopy the stone ;  
 The Mede is at his gate !  
 The Persian on his throne !"  
 [Byron's " *Vision of Belshazzar.*"



CANTO I.

## Napoleon.

NONE doubt thy matchless Genius — It was such  
 As might have made this world a worthier place  
 For Man's probation, and thy Midas touch <sup>(1)</sup>  
 Transform'd to gold, not *ashes*, his weak race;  
 But thine ensanguin'd hand forbore to trace  
 In brighter characters and loftier line,  
 The name of "Benefactor" — Thy disgrace  
 Must ever be thou *could'st* but *would'st not* twine,  
 With aught save blood-bought laurels, Nature's  
 bright design! <sup>(2)</sup>

---

<sup>(1)</sup> Midas, the fabled king of Phrygia: his miraculous power of turning all he touched to gold is too well known to require mention.

<sup>(2)</sup> "The fool of false dominion — and a kind  
 Of bastard Cæsar, following him of old  
 With steps unequal; for the Roman's mind  
 Was modell'd in a less terrestrial mould,  
 With passions fiercer, yet a judgment cold,

## Appius Claudius -- Virginia.

NOW mark the base Decemvir who betray'd  
 A Nation's trust, and shamed the Roman crest!  
 False Appius! well the Gods aveng'd the shade  
 Of fair Virginia!—The lone father press'd,  
 For the last time, the virgin to his breast,  
 Whilst the avenging Furies' cheeks were wet,  
 Yet once again, with tears! <sup>(1)</sup> The Titans rest  
 From strife in Tartarus! Fate's seal is set, [yet!  
 And dread Nemesis <sup>(2)</sup> hastes, ne'er balked of Justice

And an immortal instinct which redeem'd  
 The frailties of a heart so soft, yet bold,  
 Alcides with the distaff now he seem'd  
 At Cleopatra's feet, — and now himself he beam'd.”

[Byron's "*Childe Harold*:" *Canto IV*; *Stanza XC*.

<sup>(1)</sup> The *first* time this phenomenon occurred is said to have been when Orpheus sought his Eurydice in the Stygian realms, moving all hearts by the witchery of his melting strains.

<sup>(2)</sup> The avenging Goddess of ancient Rome.

CANTO I.

## Appius Claudius -- Virginia.

SHE was the fairest flower of thy fair clime,  
 O, sunny land of Italy! — the bride,  
 To be, of fond Icilius — in sweet prime  
 Of Youth and budding Beauty — the just pride  
 Of a free Roman's heart, which, when denied  
 Impartial Justice, snatch'd the ready knife,  
 And smote with desp'rate hand; yet, ere she died,  
 Arose a mighty shout — a sound of strife  
 That shook the massy walls, and doom'd the Tyrant's  
 life! (1)

---

(1) "With that he lifted high the steel, and smote her in the side,  
 And in her blood she sank to earth, and with one sob she died.

\* \* \* \* \*

And in another moment brake forth from one and all  
 A cry as if the Volscians were coming o'er the wall."

[Macaulay's "Lays of Ancient Rome."

## Appius Claudius -- Virginia.

OH, dark, unholy deed! A father shed  
 The parent stream that flow'd within his breast,  
 To save his lamb from the Adult'rer's bed!  
 Ha, Appius! 'tis the headsman thou hast prest,  
 Couch'd in the damp vault's gloom! Pois'd o'er  
     thy crest  
 Trembles the glittering glaive! Before thy sight,  
 See! See! the bloody knife, wan Murder's guest,  
 Tents (<sup>1</sup>) the rack'd Conscience till the hollow  
     Night  
 Teems populous with phantoms, as fair Day with light!

---

(<sup>1</sup>) Tents — pierces. — "I'll *tent* him to the quick;" etc.

[Shakespeare's "*Hamlet*:" Act II; Scene II.

## The First Triumvirate.

WHERE sleep the first Triumvirs? <sup>(1)</sup> Is there  
aught  
To mark their resting place? Yon shaft upbears  
Awhile the fame of Pompey, but inwrought  
On Hist'ry's page, which Time nor Spoiler wears,  
Is graved a lasting tablet, nor the prayers  
Of Hate nor Malice, nor the arm of Power,  
Which mars material records, here prepares  
A forc'd oblivion! — their immortal dower  
Is writ upon Fame's page, unto Time's latest hour!

---

(1) The body of Cæsar was burned in the Forum, near the spot where may still be traced ancient remains of his famous rostrum. It was to this rostrum that the head of the great Cicero was affixed by the order of Mark Antony. Pompey fled into Egypt a miserable fugitive. Well may we ask, turning from their ever-green memories to their scattered dust, "Where sleep the first Triumvirs?"

**Pompey.**

**W**HERE sleep the first Triumvirs? The far shore  
Of Nile-fed Egypt did receive the corse  
Of fallen Pompey — he who proudly bore  
Victorious Eagles where Rebellion's source  
Rose, dark and threat'ning! Conscience nor  
Remorse  
Impell'd the guilty deed — He darkly died  
By the Assassin's knife! In his sole loss  
All Rome was widow'd! He, who late defied  
Proud Syria's serried host, is now a tomb denied!

CANTO I.

**Pompey.**

**T**RUTH! 'twas a tardy Justice that uprear'd  
Unto the injur'd Pompey the proud stone, <sup>(1)</sup>  
Less glorious than his fame which huge appear'd  
To his abased detractors!—They, alone,  
Might tremble at his greatness! To atone  
His wrested sceptre did he not subdue  
Th' ambitious chief of Pontus, haughty grown,  
Foe of the Roman State, and wider drew  
The broad'ning bands of Empire, smiling as they grew?

---

(1) "Pompey's Pillar."

## Julius Cæsar.

AND he, the first great Cæsar! who prepared  
 The way to future Conquest, and who fell,  
 Bathed in the tears of Rome!—But they that dared  
 Profane his kingly mantle won too well  
 Th' Assassin's guerdon, till the thoughts that dwell  
 In guilty bosoms deem'd the bloody shade  
 Of murder'd Cæsar stalk'd abroad, to tell  
 Rome's doom at Philippi!—Ah, *there* was play'd  
 A game whose stake was Empires, lost or madly made!<sup>(1)</sup>

(1) "*Brutus.* Speak to me, what thou art.

*Ghost.* Thy evil spirit, Brutus.

*Bru.* Why eom'st thou?

*Ghost.* To tell thee thou shalt see me at Philippi.

*Bru.* Well;

Then I shall see thee again?

*Ghost.*

Ay, at Philippi.

[*Ghost vanishes.*"]

[*Shakespeare's "Julius Cæsar:" Act IV; Scene III.*]



CANTO I.

## Julius Cæsar.

CÆSAR, the great Usurper! and the first  
In Moderation, as in sov'reign Will!—  
He, he *alone* could slake the burning thirst  
Of vast Ambition at the vernal rill  
Of Strength, unmix'd with Frenzy! —slew until  
Rome's foes were vanquish'd, but by Envy's knell  
His star was quench'd in darkness! — Lo! his skill  
Curs'd Mankind through example! — by the spell  
Of his illusive glory, millions dared and fell!

## Julius Cæsar.

**N**OT all may follow where high Genius leads! —  
 But by a Cæsar may a World be won! —  
 'Tis but *one* World, *one* Cæsar, where such deeds  
 But by an equal Genius may be done! —  
 And who, of men, dare claim the Triple Sun  
 Which fix'd the first great Cæsar on Fame's  
 throne? —  
 Historian! Prince! Debater! three in one! — (1)  
 He stood, he stands, must *ever* stand alone! —  
 Creation, say! can'st boast his like since Time hath flown?

---

(1) Modern History may boast such another triplicate character: I refer to Michael Angelo, who was a Sculptor, a Painter and a Poet — but not by any means in equal perfection, since his Poesy required the sunbeams of a late love to ripen it, and late fruit is seldom equal to that which buds earlier. To this trio of magnificent talents must be added that of a great Architect, as St. Peter's will attest to future generations.

CANTO I.

## Julius Caesar.

ALAS, for human Justice! They that bear  
The towering weight of Empire find their crown  
Twined from the thorn-bush, and the ceaseless  
care,  
That robs their days of Gladness, a renown  
Dear-purchas'd with their breath! The king and  
clown  
Oft fill a common grave! — together sleep  
The sceptreless and sceptred! They whose frown  
Awed trembling senates or bade millions weep,  
Wrapt in the mould'ring shroud, “pale Hecate's” (1)  
revel keep!

---

(1) — “now witchcraft celebrates

*Pale Hecate's offerings;*” etc.

[*Shakespeare's “Macbeth.” Act II; Scene I.*

## Mark Antony.

MARK Antony! who rous'd the heart of Rome,  
And bade the "poor, dumb mouths" <sup>(1)</sup> of Cæsar  
speak  
Until each purple tear swell'd to a tome  
Of moving eloquence, whilst thy flush'd cheek,  
Curv'd lip and kindling eye, did threat'ning wreak  
Against his base subverters! Had'st thou been  
Impregnable to Pleasure, and a Greek, <sup>(2)</sup>  
As in all else a *Roman*, thou wert kin  
To Earth's great patriots, nor had stoop'd to Love's  
sweet sin!

---

<sup>(1)</sup> *Shakespeare's "Julius Cæsar:" Act III; Scene II.*

<sup>(2)</sup> The reference is more particularly to the Spartan Greeks, although the Athenians were considered to be equally brave.

CANTO I.

## Mark Antony.

OH! why would'st thou, who might'st have been of  
men

A paragon and hero, thus descend  
To Love's material pleasures? Wherefore, when  
Fair Fortune smiled upon thee, would'st thou blend  
The fleeting and eternal till the end  
Shrank to Forgetfulness, and Egypt's Queen (1)  
Eclips'd thy Sun of Glory? Why pretend  
Man of celestial nature? — wherefore screen,  
With Sanctity, a thing whose joy hath been so mean?

---

(1) "Oh! too convincing — dangerously dear —  
In woman's eye, the unanswerable tear;  
That weapon of her weakness she can wield,  
To save, subdue — at once her spear and shield;  
Avoid it — Virtue ebbs and Wisdom errs,  
Too fondly gazing on that grief of hers!  
What lost a world, and bade a hero fly?  
The timid tear in Cleopatra's eye."

[Byron's "Corsair." Canto II.

## Passion.

O WOMAN! wherefore is't that thou wert made  
 , At once Man's crown and cursing? From the dust  
 Thy beauty hymns us, but, when once essay'd  
 Starr'd Heaven's inviting steep, the cank'ring rust  
 Of Blight and fleshly failing, Love's fair lust,  
 Hurls us from the far summit we aspire  
 Into a Cretan labyrinth where our trust  
 Grows weak and wav'ring, and Chimeras dire—  
 Minotaurs<sup>(1)</sup> of the Mind, quench our immortal fire!

---

(1) The Cretan Minotaur was "a monster with a bull's body and a human head. It was exceedingly strong and fierce, and was kept in a labyrinth constructed by Dædalus, so artfully contrived that whoever was enclosed in it could by no means find his way out unassisted. Here the Minotaur roamed, and was fed with human victims."

[*"The Age of Fable;" Bulfinch.*]

CANTO I.

## Passion.

**T**HUS hath it ever been, and yet must be  
 Whilst Man, proud slave of Passion, plods below,  
 And deems himself an Angel whose haught <sup>(1)</sup> knee  
 Stoops but to God! — methinks the soul-like <sup>(2)</sup> flow  
 Of Circumstance doth bend some mightier bow —  
 That Time's dread purpose marks a loftier aim  
 Than piping this lost Cherub, for we know  
 Not that which lies about us, yet I claim  
 Bright worlds of brighter Spirits feed the Poet's flame!

---

(1) Haught — haughty. — “No lord of thine, thou *haught*, insulting man,” etc.  
 [Shakespeare's “*King Richard II.*” Act IV; Scene I.

— “and then his courage *haught*  
 Desyrd of forreine foemen to be knownc,” etc.

[Spenser's “*Faerie Queene.*” Book I; Canto VI.

(2) “Ye pine groves, with your soft and *soul-like* sounds!”  
 [Coleridge's “*Hymn before Sunrise, in the Valley of Chamouni, Switzerland.*”

## Augustus.

AUGUSTUS, haughty tyrant! Father! Foel  
Specious despoiler of the People's right!  
Thou sov'reign, proud, ambitious, who did'st sow  
At once the seed of Probity and Blight,  
Be thou remember'd as a dubious light—  
An *ignis-fatuus* that too brightly shone,  
And laps'd again to darkness; — Lo! the night  
Wax'd deeper with thy setting — thou alone  
Could'st dazzle whilst thou wrong'd, nor tremble 'pon  
thy throne!



CANTO I.

*Augustus.*

**T**HY courts were those of Learning, where the Lyre  
To Virgil, Horace, Ovid, Livy, sang  
In grand, soul-stirring numbers whose deep fire  
Enrich'd all-after time, for in them rang  
The tones of Immortality, which sprang  
To life through Exaltation or the pain  
Of parted Love—a wild and with'ring pang  
Which seals the Soul's clear fountain till the brain,  
Lull'd to a pensive sadness, courts its cank'ring chain.

## Augustus.

AUGUSTUS! 'pon thy scutcheon gleams the stain  
Of Rome's thrice precious blood, great Cicero's: <sup>(1)</sup>  
Alas! that thou, who ever in the main  
Sought Wisdom's councils, should'st provide thy  
foes  
So dread and just a weapon to depose  
Thee from Time's benefactors, or incur  
A lasting blight upon thy star which rose  
Amid Earth's brightest: why would'st thou prefer,  
With Love at free command, thus thy dark Soul  
t' aver?

---

(1) Although the life of Rome's great orator was sacrificed more immediately to the hatred of Mark Antony, yet his death may be more justly attributed to Augustus, the leading spirit of the second Triumvirate.

CANTO I.

## Religion.

RELIGION! purple crimes crouch at thy door,  
 And mark thy march of Progress!—of their kind,  
 For thee, Mankind grew haters, and the poor  
 Were traml'd by the potent, till the Mind,  
 The bright “Promethean spark,” (1) groped with  
     the blind  
 In outer Darkness, and the starry beam  
 Of Christ’s profaned religion fail’d to find  
 A native worshipper, till one might deem  
 The Cross, and Calv’ry’s Mount, some dark, distorted  
     dream!

---

(1) *Byron's "Manfred": Act I; Scene I.*

## Arians and Gnostics.

THEN rose the Arian sect with bloody hand,  
And smote the subtler Gnostic, till the tide  
Whelm'd with a crimson deluge the lost land  
In universal Slaughter, and the pride  
Of ghostly fathers strove no more to hide  
Their dark ambitions; (1) then the holy well  
Of St. Theonas flow'd with gore that dyed  
The pavement to the altar, where men fell,  
A prayer upon their lips, and pass'd (2) without a  
knell! (3)

---

(1) See "Gibbon's Rome : " Vol. III ; p. 376.

(2) Tennyson's "Morte d'Arthur," or "Passing of Arthur."

(3) See "Gibbon's Rome : " Vol. III ; p. 379.

CANTO I.

## Athanasius.

YET *one* commands a high and holier place  
Amidst this wide sedition; let us pause  
To honor Athanasius, <sup>(1)</sup> and embrace  
Awhile a gentler prospect in this cause  
Where mutual Hate voids Pity's milder laws,  
And human creatures, in unnatural strife,  
Pollute with blood Christ's Banner which ignores  
The purple propagation of the knife,  
Nor sanctifies the wretch who spills the meanest life!

---

(<sup>1</sup>) See "Gibbon's Rome:" Vol. III; p. 356.

## Plato--The Logos--The Triad.

O, PLATO! thou did'st shadow forth, of yore,  
 The mystic *Logos* of the Nicene creed! —  
 The awful Triad, at whose triple door  
 Wisdom falls, shatter'd, like the storm-bent  
 reed! — (1)

What is this creature, Man, that he hath need  
 To beat his puny pinions 'gainst the bars  
 Of Earth's dim prison, till they droop and bleed? —  
 Methinks the wild-bird's instinct 'tis that jars  
 Against our slavish bonds, still pointing toward the  
 stars!

---

(1) See "*Gibbon's Rome*:" Vol. III; p. 314, 315, 320, 332.

CANTO I.

## Jove and Semele.

**I** HOLD it be not we are thus abased  
Save through some purpose, yet this scathing  
flame,  
Be it for good or ill, seems interlaced  
In an unjust proportion with our frame;  
At least in Souls that tempt fair Semele's fame,  
By Jove consumed to ashes when he stood,  
In radiant panoply, before the dame,  
Soft partner of his love, whose lip had woo'd  
The God's rash promise in his least ungentle mood.<sup>(1)</sup>

---

(1) Semele, doubting if her lover were indeed immortal Jove, required from him the fulfillment of any desire she might express. Jupiter, though somewhat loth, consented. She then pronounced the words, which "The King of Gods and Men," bound by his fatal oath, could neither recall nor deny. "In deep distress he left her and returned to the upper regions. There he clothed himself in his

## Passion.

THUS hath it ever been with those who rend  
In twain the Web of Darkness, which is flung  
’Twixt God and our dim natures that so blend  
The earthly and angelic: thus we hung,  
Pois’d ’mid immortal glories, till the tongue  
Of the Arch-Tempter charm’d us to the brink  
Of everlasting Ruin, where, among  
Earth’s host of prurient passions, still we drink  
This Hemlock of the Mind, and more degraded sink!

---

splendors, not putting on all his terrors, as when he overthrew the giants, but what is known among the Gods as his lesser panoply. Arrayed in this he entered the chamber of Semele. Her mortal frame could not endure the splendors of the immortal radiance. She was consumed to ashes.”

[“*The Age of Fable* ;” *Bulfinch*.



CANTO I.

## The Human Mind.

**A**LAS! that Man, "The noblest work of God,"<sup>(1)</sup>  
Endow'd with Mind, clear Reason's calm Sub-  
lime, —

At whose disputeless and almighty nod  
The Bolt outstrips the rushing Car of Time,  
And bears his mandates on, from clime to clime,  
'Neath frighted Neptune's privileged domain,  
Where sea-calves gambol 'mid the dank caves'  
slime, —

That Man, the demi-Angel, form'd to reign  
O'er all created creatures — in whose godlike brain

---

(1) *Pope's Essay on Man: " Epistle IV.*

## The Human Mind.

THE Universe seems imaged — from the breast  
Of whose far-darting Ægis beams the might  
Of Power supreme, like dread Medusa's crest  
That deck'd the shield of Pallas, Goddess  
bright, — (1)

Alas! this Emanation, splendour-dight  
With arch-angelic glories, should decline  
His mind to sensual Pleasure when his flight  
Hymns with the star-eyed Cherubs, where "The  
Nine" (2)

Breathe o'er th' exalted Soul a spirit all divine!

---

(1) The snaky head of the Gorgon, Medusa, having been severed from its body by the hero, Perseus, was affixed by Minerva to her shield.

(2) *Muses*.

CANTO I.

## Julian the Apostate.

MARK now the great Apostate! he whose name  
 Held a meridian glory, and display'd  
 The might of Rome's first Cæsar, dear to Fame!  
*Thrice* did he dare what Cæsar *twice* essay'd!—  
*Thrice* dared and triumph'd o'er a foe dismay'd!—  
*Thrice* o'er the Rhine the Roman Eagles bore, <sup>(1)</sup>  
 Ere hail'd "Augustus" <sup>(2)</sup> by each warrior's  
 blade!—  
*Thrice* "Came, and Saw, and Conquer'd," <sup>(3)</sup> as of  
 yore [deplore!  
 "The mightiest Julius," <sup>(4)</sup> whom true Wisdom must

---

<sup>(1)</sup> See "Gibbon's Rome:" Vol. III; p. 228.

<sup>(2)</sup> See "Gibbon's Rome:" Vol. IV; p. 11.

<sup>(3)</sup> "Veni, Vidi, Vici." The motto inscribed upon the victorious banner of Julius Cæsar, and embodied in his letter to Rome.

<sup>(4)</sup> Shakespeare's "Hamlet:" Act I; Scene I.

## Victories of Julian.

TO Julian th' Alemanni suppliant bow'd—  
Surmar and Hortaire, chiefs of royal line;  
'Pon Strasbourg's plain their kings and nobles  
proud  
Met Fortune's ebbing flood, and saw decline  
Chnodomar's star of Conquest and Rapine;  
Then, 'gainst the Franks, turn'd Gaul's victorious  
arms —  
Those fierce barbarians who would ne'er define  
A law save "Die or Conquer!"— War's alarms  
To their rude Souls seem'd music fraught with gentlest  
charms! (1)

---

(1) See "*Gibbon's Rome*:" Vol. III; p. 224, 225, 229.

## CANTO I.

## Victories of Julian.

THE Eye of Night beheld the Rhine's broad stream  
Fleck'd with the Roman galleys, whose swift stroke  
Sped armèd warriors, 'neath her silv'ry beam,  
Upon the German camp; nor yet awoke  
The drowsy sentinel till fiercely broke  
The Foeman's vengeful shout, which fix'd his  
doom:  
To arms! To arms! 'neath Darkness' sable cloak,  
Gaul's hardy veterans people many a tomb  
With an untimely shadow, in the midnight gloom! (1)

---

(1) See "Gibbon's Rome:" Vol. III; p. 229, 230.

## Victories of Julian.

**H**ARK! Bacchus' rites are hush'd!—the thirsty brand  
Drinks purple nectar from each flowing wound!—  
The wine-cup trembles in the palsied hand,  
And adds its ruby to the redd'ning ground,  
All slippery with Slaughter! — far around,  
The death-groan echoes to Love's deep farewell,  
Where mingling prayers and curses loud resound,  
Proclaiming to the Winds this work of Hell —  
This glutless, tigerish thirst of fiends that in us dwell! (1)

---

(1) See "*Gibbon's Rome*:" Vol. III; p. 229, 230.

CANTO I.

## Victories of Julian.

THE strife is o'er! — pale Cynthia's parting beam  
Views many a lordly crest amid the slain,  
Whose glittering helms glance, 'neath her fading  
gleam,  
Like moon-kiss'd billows 'pon the dark-blue main;  
Whilst many a blade, yet grasp'd in proud disdain,  
Attests the vanquish'd hero's victory;  
And Death, whose mantle shrouds the gory plain,  
May boast no bloodless triumph! — here the free  
Barbarian bravely fell, nor shrank from Fate's decree!

## Julian Proclaimed Emperor.

VIEW now the scene of Gaul's gay Capital! —  
A martial banquet spread — the ruddy wine  
Fill'd to each beaker's brim! Ere young Morn  
shall  
Dethrone pale Hesperus, the royal line  
Of Europe's Conqueror, great Constantine,  
Shall haste to setting! — Hark! borne from afar,  
The swell of angry voices sounds decline  
To that world-honor'd name! — The Julian star  
Salutes, with modest pride, the Gallic host's huzza! (1)

---

(1) See "Gibbon's Rome:" Vol. IV; p. 10, 11.



CANTO I.

## Jerusalem.

AND thine, Jerusalem's, thrice-holy Mounts! —  
Sion and Acra's consecrated ground! —  
Ye heard restor'd e'en here, where the first founts  
Of Christ's Religion flow'd, that impious sound,  
The Pagan's profanation! — ye saw crown'd,  
By Venus' Temple, old Moriah's steep! —  
Ye felt the ploughshare where no crops abound,  
Save seed sown of the Shepherd that His sheep  
May perish not unheeded where they will but reap! (1)

---

(1) See "*Gibbon's Rome*:" Vol. IV; p. 99, 100.

## Rebuilding of the Temple.

THE Pagan's power declined! — his false fane fell (1)  
Before th' encroaching Christian — and again,  
At a then distant day, *one* sought to swell  
The joyful hope of Juda! — Who, 'mong men,  
Was he? — The proud Apostate! — from Fear's fen  
Plucking the pious Hebrew to rebuild  
The temple to his God, till, wondrous, when  
The silver pick was plied, Jehovah still'd  
By the bright bolts of Heaven! — thus His Wrath's  
word fulfill'd!

---

(1) See "*Gibbon's Rome*:" Vol. IV; p. 103, 104, 105, 106.

CANTO I.

## Grove and Temple of Daphne.

IN Daphne's laurell'd shrine the Sun God stood,  
Symmetric Beauty moulding each light limb,  
Whilst, graceful stooping, he fair Tellus woo'd,  
As stream'd Jove's nectar o'er the chalice' brim,  
Staining his ivory palm, where the bright rim  
Shower'd its purple vintage o'er the ground  
In rich libations, till the Temple dim  
Glow'd with celestial Splendour, whilst the sound  
Of rapturous music rose, and ravish'd those around! (1)

---

(1) See "Gibbon's Rome:" Vol. IV; p. 118, 120.

## Grove and Temple of Daphne.

SUCH was the scene of yore, yet, when there stood  
The Foe of Christ within that crumbling wall,  
Its prescient pride was perish'd! — when he woo'd  
Apollo at his shrine, through the stript hall  
A hollow whisper but obey'd Hope's call! —  
The throng of men and maids, in shrouds of snow,  
Where, where are they? — Alas! full lightly fall  
The Sun's beams 'bove this spot, though none shall  
know

All his bright Orb beheld of yon proud pageant's glow! (1)

---

(1) See "*Gibbon's Rome*:" Vol. IV; p. 120, 121.

CANTO I.

## The Palatine Hill.

PAUSE! for ye near the perish'd Palatine!  
Form'd yon gray, mould'ring turrets the abode  
Of Rome's dread Majesty? — the dim decline  
Of Age hath shorn their lustre, and the load  
Of wasted centuries Time's seed hath sowed  
In one wide desolation! Babylon,  
The Royal Harlot, knew no harsher code  
When stripp'd of her full greatness! If, anon,  
The mighty dead could wake, where were thy glories  
gone?

## Palaces of the Cæsars.

DUST of departed Greatness! Here hath soar'd  
Each Palace of the Cæsars, now no more! —  
Wide-scatter'd wrecks of Ruin, which afford  
Fit fund for Contemplation! In the core  
Of hearts such scenes grow hallow'd through the  
law  
Of past Association, whilst the beam  
Which bathed applausive millions, and of yore  
Announc'd the Gods of Genius, like a dream  
Thrills o'er each ravish'd sense with transitory gleam!

CANTO I.

## Charles Dickens.

WHILST wond'ringly we view yon hoary hill,  
 Exemplar of the Past! list to a strain [thrill  
 From one whose mute, hush'd harp no more may  
 With its once matchless music — a refrain  
 Of Albyn's peerless novelist! I drain  
 A cup to memory of him whose page  
 Imperishably stands, while men retain  
 The reverence due Genius, to engage  
 The Soul's sweet sympathies in scion as in sage! (1)

---

(1) My readers will, I am sure, pardon the liberty I have taken in introducing this exquisite gem as a note, and, the more readily, that the author of "Pickwick" has so seldom courted the Muse. Long may his noble words survive, to lighten the burdens and lessen the trials of humanity! —

“ Oh, a dainty plant is the Ivy green,  
 That creepeth o'er ruins old!  
 Of right choice food are his meals I ween,  
 In his cell so lone and cold.

## Triumphal Arches.

**H**ERE press'd the pageantry of Rome's proud  
throng!  
Through thrice an hundred Triumphs did'st thou  
glow,  
Ye ivy-mantl'd Arches which belong,  
Like things ye view'd, to centuries laid low  
By Time, the Monarch's Monarch, and the foe

---

The wall must be crumbled, the stone decayed,  
To pleasure his dainty whim:  
And the mouldering dust that years have made  
Is a merry meal for him.  
Creeping where no life is seen,  
A rare old plant is the Ivy green.

“Fast he stealeth on, though he wears no wings,  
And a staunch old heart has he.  
How closely he twineth, how tight he clings,  
To his friend the huge Oak Tree!



## CANTO I.

To Man's o'er-ripen'd Greatness!—Thou, O Fame!  
 Alone can'st grant his puny breath to blow  
 Pipes to succeeding millions, or a name  
 To kindle o'er his dust deep Mem'ry's deathless flame!

---

And slyly he traileth along the ground,  
 And his leaves he gently waves,  
 As he joyously hugs and crawleth round  
 The rich mould of dead men's graves.  
 Creeping where grim Death has been,  
 A rare old plant is the Ivy green.

“ Whole Ages have fled and their works decayed,  
 And Nations have scattered been ;  
 But the stout old Ivy shall never fade,  
 From its hale and hearty green.  
 The brave old plant in its lonely days,  
 Shall fatten upon the Past :  
 For the stateliest building Man can raise  
 Is the Ivy's food at last,  
 Creeping on, where Time has been,  
 A rare old plant is the Ivy green.”  
 [*Dickens' "Ivy Green."*]



CANTO I.

## Fountains at Rome.

THE splash of lapsing waters, soft accord,  
Sweet Psalmody of Sound, floats on the air  
With intermingling echoes! — th' haleyon sward  
Bestrewn by sparkling dew-drops! — Naught of  
Care

Assails the wearied Mind! — here they that bear  
May cast aside their burthens! — this is Rome!  
The gush of myriad fountains breathes a prayer  
Of native melody, whilst yon starr'd dome,  
The blue-arch'd vault of Heaven, spans Freedom's  
ancient home!

## Night at Rome.

FOR such is Night beneath Italia's sky!  
The Summer Moon hath full'd, yet casts weird  
shades  
O'er this dispeopl'd spot! — the owlet's cry  
Re-echoes unprov'd! — Remembrance fades  
Of this, our petty Present, and the blades  
Of heroes, here unsheath'd, recall each scene  
Of Pomp and martial Splendour! — cavalcades  
Of phantoms, and the fray, lit by the Queen  
Of Darkness, pass me by with pale but lordly mien!

# Lord Byron Vindicated;

OR,

Rome and her Pilgrim.



CANTO THE SECOND.



"O, pardon me, thou piece of bleeding earth,  
That I am meek and gentle with these butchers!  
Thou art the ruins of the noblest man,  
That ever livèd in the tide of times."

[Shakespeare's "Julius Cæsar : " Act III; Scene I.



# Lord Byron Vindicated.

CANTO THE SECOND.

## Coliseum. <sup>(1)</sup>

WE stand within the Coliseum's shade!  
Oh, God! how grandly desolate! The stars  
Above smile down like Angels that essay'd  
To woo us to themselves! Here bloody Mars  
Assembl'd his stern votaries in War's  
Tumultuous conflict — Honour's, Pity's voice,  
Nor Freedom's, nor the Right, the thirst debars  
Of Murder's carnival, but all rejoice  
To see the bright blood flow, applauding Fortune's  
choice!

---

(1) The reader is requested to imagine him, or herself, beneath the tender

## Coliseum.

**A**ND here fought famish'd beasts with fiercer men,  
 And Life hung in the balance whilst the press  
 Sate mute and breathless, as from out his den  
 The Nemean lion sprang! No faint distress  
 Unnerves his practis'd arm which might confess  
 The *Bestiarius*'<sup>(1)</sup> fear, as, face to face,  
 The tawny monster stands! — One *passus* <sup>(2)</sup> less  
 And they must meet! — but see! the transient trace  
 Of Recollection fades — Defiance takes its place!

---

glories of an Italian Summer's night, as straying within the shadows of this, the most sublime and awe-inspiring relic of the mighty Past, whilst before the absorbed and dreamy vision pass — like King Richard's pale, midnight visitants — the shades of the long-silent actors of this once so busy scene.

“ — upon such a night  
 I stood within the Coliseum's wall,  
 [Continued on next page.]

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(1) The *Bestiarii* were men employed to combat with wild beasts in the arena.

(2) Pace.



CANTO II.

## Coliseum.

**W**HY doth he seek with his sole arm to brave  
 The King of Beasts and Terrors? Know ye not  
 This man is but a bondsman — a vile slave —  
 The instrument of Passion — that his lot  
 Hath been but stripes and lashes? — hast forgot  
 He woos a manlier death where Courage calls?  
 Ha! Look! the huge cat springs! — A gleam is  
     shot —  
 The glint of glittering steel! — One vast paw falls,  
 Shattering the slight skull — the Soul's puissant walls!

---

Midst the chief relics of almighty Rome;  
 The trees which grew along the broken arches  
 Waved dark in the blue midnight, and the stars  
 Shone through the rents of ruin; from afar  
 The watch-dog bay'd beyond the Tiber; and  
 More near from out the Cæsars' palace came  
 The owl's long cry, and, interruptedly,  
 Of distant sentinels the fitful song

## Coliseum.

CAN these be *men* that joy in human pain?  
 Ay! Men and Romans! — Rulers of the Earth!  
 But dies he unaveng'd? No! they were twain  
 In Slavery as Death — a common hearth  
 Had bred this lowly pair that from their birth  
 Had shared the same harsh fate; and now he hastes,  
 This brother helot, to avenge the worth  
 Of his slain comrade where the flush'd fiend tastes  
 His warm and fragrant blood which o'er the Circus  
 wastes!

---

Begun and died upon the gentle wind.  
 Some cypresses beyond the time-worn beach  
 Appeared to skirt the horizon, yet they stood  
 Within a bow-shot. — Where the Cæsars dwelt,  
 And dwell the tuneless birds of night, amidst  
 A grove which springs through level'd battlements,  
 And twines its roots with the imperial hearths,  
 Ivy usurps the laurel's place of growth; —

CANTO II.

## Coliseum.

'TWERE rash to face him now! The red lips reek  
 With Life's yet thermal tide, and that fierce thirst  
 Which slumber'd in his veins now bids him seek,  
 Not shun, this fresh affray! Few, few had durst  
 Provoke the savage ire, by Famine nurst,  
 Wherewith he turns to front his wary foe! —  
 Aloft the bright blade gleams! — One mighty burst  
 Of Rage and mad Despair — one final throe,  
 And stretch'd along the dust the baffl'd brute lies low!

---

But the gladiators' bloody Circus stands,  
 A noble wreck in ruinous perfection!  
 While Cæsar's chambers and the Augustan halls,  
 Grovel on earth in indistinct decay. —  
 And thou didst shine, thou rolling moon, upon  
 All this, and cast a wide and tender light,  
 Which soften'd down the hoar austerity  
 Of rugged desolation, and fill'd up,

## Coliseum.

ENOUGH of Crime and Carnage! It were fit  
 The scene were shrouded here, but o'er our view  
 Expands a bloodier prospect as there flit,  
 Beneath the mantling moon-beams, which imbue  
 The place with their pale aspect and wan hue,  
 The shades of those who fell for the mad sport  
 Of the rude populace — that Cain-mark'd crew,  
 The Gladiators' band — those fiends who fought  
 To glut the wolfish thirst which Mercy set at naught!

---

As 't were anew, the gaps of centuries;  
 Leaving that beautiful which still was so,  
 And making that which was not, till the place  
 Became religion, and the heart ran o'er  
 With silent worship of the great of old! —  
 The dead, but scepter'd sovereigns, who still rule  
 Our spirits from their urns. —”

[Byron's "Manfred:" Act III; Scene IV.

CANTO II.

(1) *G*oliseum. (2)

**A** GAIN the lists grow peopled as we mark  
 The brawny Champions of the gory Ring—  
 Those madmen of a moment who embark  
 Their all in this frail venture which may bring  
 But Death—perchance Dishonor: yet they fling  
 Away their lives like baubles, to embrace  
 A mute, inglorious fate, or win a thing  
 As trivial as the Wind—the sorry grace [efface!  
 That dwells in fleeting breath, which Chance may soon

---

(1) Longfellow thus alludes to the fennel, and the *fennel-wreath* with which a victorious gladiator was crowned:—

“It gave new strength, and fearless mood;  
 And gladiators, fierce and rude,  
 Mingled it in their daily food;  
 And he who battled and subdued,  
 A wreath of fennel wore.”

[Longfellow's “Goblet of Life.”]

(2) “Type of the antique Rome! Rich reliquary  
 Of lofty contemplation left to Time  
 By buried centuries of pomp and power!

[Continued on next page.]

## Coliseum.

**I** SEE the gaping wound — the bloody dew  
 That dye his feeble brow — the quivering limb,  
 Convuls'd — or the fine agony which woos  
 The gentle Drops of Pity, cherubim  
 That veil bright Orbs of Beauty, which o'er-brim  
 Fond Nature's genial founts! The glazing eye  
 Turns with expiring glance, tender but dim,  
 Toward his far home, and, as he sinks, a sigh  
 Betrays unto the jeering horde his heart's blest tie! —

\* \* \* \* \*

Here, where a hero fell, a column falls!  
 Here, where the mimic eagle glared in gold,  
 A midnight vigil holds the swarthy bat!  
 Here, where the dames of Rome their gilded hair  
 Waved to the wind, now wave the reed and thistle!  
 Here, where on golden throne the monarch lolled,  
 Glides, spectre-like, unto his marble home,  
 Lit by the wan light of the hornéd moon,  
 The swift and silent lizard of the stones!

\* \* \* \* \*

CANTO II.

## Coliseum.

AND now 'tis past. Now once again I hear  
 A last appeal for Mercy, where, o'ercome,  
 A vanquish'd hero craves the general ear  
 To spare his forfeit life; —Yea! *hear!* — the dumb,  
 Pain'd gesture quells the low but eager hum  
 Of the hush'd throng, as all its vast array  
 Proclaims the People's sentence! — the fell thumb,<sup>(1)</sup>  
 Uplifted, seals his doom! — Swift to obey,  
 Descends the brutal blow which terminates the fray!

---

These stones — alas! these gray stones — are they all —  
 All of the famed, and the colossal left  
 By the corrosive Hours to Fate and me?

'Not all' — the Echoes answer me — 'not all!'

---

(<sup>1</sup>) A Gladiator, vanquished in the sports of the Amphitheatre, had the privilege of a last appeal for life to the clemency of the audience. The decision of the people was signified by the dipt or uplifted thumb; the former granting pardon — the latter sealing his doom.

## Coliseum.

SUCH still the scene where the wild wall-flower  
 waves,  
 Garlanding the “blue midnight” (1) with its wreath  
 Wove from the mould of Empires, o’er the graves  
 Of all Man deem’d eternal — he whose breath  
 Seem’d scarce less fleeting: Lo! we pause beneath  
 Thy gray, dismantl’d ruin, to accord  
 Our minds with the dim distance in this dearth  
 Of wondrous things that were, and say, “O, Lord!  
 Behold our works and Thine! — which must Mankind  
 applaud?”

---

Prophetic sounds and loud, arise forever  
 From us, and from all Ruin, unto the wise,  
 As melody from Memnon to the Sun.”

[Poe’s “Coliseum.”]

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(1) *Byron’s “Manfred:” Act III; Scene IV.*



CANTO II.

## Coliseum.

HERE star-eyed Flora spreads her fairy sway,  
 With score-score children scatter'd wide around, <sup>(1)</sup>  
 Embowering by green garlands grim Decay,  
 And thickly trailing o'er each grass-grown mound;  
 Whilst from the time-worn parapet, embrown'd,  
 Depends each weird festoon's fantastic wave,  
 Coquetting with the moon-beam which hath found  
 In these, her gentler playmates, forms that gave  
 To Fame a Byron's page <sup>(2)</sup> which breathes beyond the  
 Grave! — <sup>(3)</sup>

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<sup>(1)</sup> The Coliseum has been found to contain no less than *four hundred and twenty* different varieties of flora.

<sup>(2)</sup> "The first and second cantos of 'Childe Harold's Pilgrimage' produced, on their appearance in 1812, an effect upon the public, at least equal to any work which  
 [Continued on page 78.]

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<sup>(3)</sup> "You may break, you may shatter the vase, if you will,  
 But the scent of the roses will hang round it still."  
 [Moore's "Irish Melodies."]

## Fame.

O CHRIST! the cost of such! Our sunny Youth  
 Consum'd 'mid self-sought tortures! — the worn  
 breast

Wrung by forbidden searchings after Truth  
 That ever courts, but all eludes, our quest! —  
 Oh! to what end woo we this wild unrest —  
 The scathèd Spirit and the burning Brain? <sup>(1)</sup>  
 Despair may seek to free the star-born Guest,  
 But, if fond Faith forbid us rend the chain, [pain! <sup>(2)</sup>

We writhe through wretched years of more than mortal

(1) "Sit, Jessica : look, how the floor of heaven  
 Is thick inlaid with patines of bright gold :  
 There's not the smallest orb which thou behold'st,  
 But in his motion like an angel sings,  
 Still quiring to the young-ey'd cherubins, —"

(2) "Truth for ever on the scaffold, Wrong for ever on the throne, —" etc.

[Lowell's "*Present Crisis*."

CANTO II.

## Fame.

VAIN Hope! to deem this bitter breath we draw  
 Abundant offering to thankless Time—  
 Or think her minions reverence, the more,  
 Sweet harps which swell with strains of idle rhyme  
 Earth's empty plaint—that from the Soul's fair  
     clime  
 Deaf ears drink such sad sounds!—Serenely won  
 The Spirit's shining shore, methinks the chime  
 Of yon soft-choiring Spheres should suffer none  
 Save Seraphs' songs to swell, supreme, beyond the  
     Sun! (1)

---

Such harmony is in immortal souls;  
 But whilst this muddy vesture of decay  
 Doth grossly close us in, we cannot hear it."

*[Shakespeare's "Merchant of Venice:" Act V; Scene I.*

---

(1) [M. S. "Save seraphs' songs to swell sweet psalms beyond the Sun."—E.]

## Fame.

**Y**E who peruse the Poet's pensive page  
 Full little ken those pangs that pour'd it forth,  
 Else should sad sympathies your Souls engage—  
 True tears attest glad Gratitude's blest birth: <sup>(1)</sup>  
 With our hearts' blood we write! Ah! little worth  
 His fyttes <sup>(2)</sup> that from fair founts of Joyaunce  
 flow;—  
 The Prophet plods in pain the paths of Earth,  
 Where Sorrow soothes the Eloquence of Woe, <sup>(3)</sup>  
 For Pleasaunce featly <sup>(4)</sup> flies it is pursued the moe! <sup>(5)</sup>

<sup>(1)</sup> "Not from a vain or shallow thought  
 His awful Jove young Phidias brought."  
*[Emerson's "Problem."*

<sup>(2)</sup> Strains.

<sup>(3)</sup> "No words suffice the secret soul to show,  
 For Truth denies all eloquence to Woe."  
*[Byron's "Corsair:" Canto III.*

<sup>(4)</sup> Nimble.

<sup>(5)</sup> More.

## CANTO II.

## Fame.

**W**ITH our hearts' blood we write! <sup>(1)</sup> Could ye who  
 trace,  
 How heedlessly, stern strivings of the Soul  
 Which would repose her from Fame's weary  
 race —  
 Turn her tired steps toward Good's still grateful  
 goal, —  
 Could ye view this — could ye divine the whole —  
 Yea! track the Spirit to her secret cell,  
 Ye would ne <sup>(2)</sup> wonder that the ripe years roll,  
 Draped with bleak Barrenness, o'er those that dwell  
 From fellow-worms apart, nor hive with Earth's wide  
 hell!

---

<sup>(1)</sup> "Most wretched men  
 Are cradled into poetry by wrong:  
 They learn in suffering what they teach in song."  
 [*Shelley's "Julian and Maddalo."*]

<sup>(2)</sup> Not.

## Love.

POOR Fool! prat'st thou of Love?—hath Heaven  
indeed

Vouchsaf'd no worthier worship, that ye take  
Creatures of clay to crown your trivial creed?  
Why at such rills would ye your thirstings slake,  
When rivers, rolling by, spread their bright lake  
Of rare-reflected Beauty round your feet?  
Yet Love, too, hath her minions who would wake  
Harmonious whispers with their hot hearts' beat —  
Lured by the Little God, they find such fetters sweet!

---

has appeared within this or the last century, and placed at once upon Lord Byron's head the garland for which other men of genius have toiled long, and which they have gained late. He was placed pre-eminently among the literary men of his country by general acclamation. It was amidst such feelings of admiration that he entered the public stage. Everything in his manner, person, and conversation, tended to maintain the charm which his genius had flung around him; and those admitted to his conversation, far from finding that the inspired poet sunk into ordinary mortality, felt themselves attached to him, not only by many noble qualities,

CANTO II.

## Love.

**F**OND Love hath her frail legions! for the Tomb  
 Teems with pale populace which, drooping, died,  
 Slain by some sightless wound; but direr doom  
 Is theirs, worn wand'ers, fickle Fate denied  
 The Crypt's calm consolation! — these abide,  
 'Mid men, like living shadows, silently  
 Plodding Wreck's scowling path with sullen  
     pride,  
 Hugging Bond's hateful chain whose clank will  
     be

Hoar holocaust of hopes which won whilst fancy-free!

---

but by the interest of a mysterious, undefined, and almost painful curiosity. A countenance exquisitely modelled to the expression of feeling and passion, and exhibiting the remarkable contrast of very dark hair and eyebrows, with light and expressive eyes, presented to the physiognomist the most interesting subject for the exercise of his art. The predominating expression was that of deep and habitual thought, which gave way to the most rapid play of features when he

## Love.

**T**IME scars stern tablets!—scores the blooming brow!  
 Darkly our days are number'd! Age may set  
 Pain's seal 'pon sunny Youth!—yea! Sorrow plough  
 Deep furrows of four-score dread annals yet <sup>(1)</sup>  
 Down clothe the cherub cheek!—Alas! the debt  
 Bequeath'd by our prime parents, through their  
     shame,  
 Rests unrequited!—well doth Passion whet  
 The lip of lewd Desire that knights its name—  
 Coins Love for conynge <sup>(2)</sup> Lust, twin terms of Folly's  
     flame!

---

engaged in interesting discussion; so that a brother poet compared them to the sculpture of a beautiful alabaster vase, only seen to perfection when lighted up from within. The flashes of mirth, gaiety, indignation, or satirical dislike, which frequently animated Lord Byron's countenance, might, during an evening's con-

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<sup>(1)</sup> Ere yet.

<sup>(2)</sup> Cunning.



## CANTO II.

## Love.

WHY, from the mystic Mind's immortal realm,  
 Must we resume frail fetters, forg'd below?  
 As Palinurus perish'd at his helm, (1)  
 We, baff'd, die by some defenceless blow,  
 When Pleasure waves her wand of Lethæan dew,

---

versation, be mistaken, by a stranger, for a habitual expression, so easily and so happily was it formed for them all; but those who had an opportunity of studying his features for a length of time, and upon various occasions, both of rest and emotion, will agree that their proper language was that of melancholy. Sometimes shades of this gloom interrupted even his gayest and most happy moments."

[*Sir Walter Scott.*]

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(1) "Venus now interceded with Neptune to allow her son at last to attain the wished-for goal and find an end to his perils on the deep. Neptune consented, stipulating only for one life as a ransom for the rest. The victim was Palinurus, the pilot. As he sat watching the stars, with his hand on the helm, Somnus sent by Neptune approached in the guise of Phœbus and said, 'Palinurus, the breeze is fair, the water smooth, and the ship sails steadily on her course. Lie down awhile and take needful rest. I will stand at the helm in your place.' Palinurus replied, 'Tell me not of smooth seas or favoring winds, — me who have seen so much of their treachery. Shall I trust Æneas to the chances of the weather and

Where Woman, with her wiles, perverts the  
heart: —

In vain doth downy velvet veil from view  
The tiger's trenchant terrors, but the dart  
Of *Cupid's* cureless woundings deals a deadlier smart!

the winds? And he continued to grasp the helm and to keep his eyes fixed on the stars. But Somnus waved over him a branch moistened with Lethæan dew, and his eyes closed in spite of all his efforts. Then Somnus pushed him overboard and he fell; but keeping his hold upon the helm, it came away with him. Neptune was mindful of his promise and kept the ship on her track without helm or pilot, till Æneas discovered his loss, and, sorrowing deeply for his faithful steersman took charge of the ship himself.

There is a beautiful allusion to the story of Palinurus in Scott's 'Marmion,' introduction to Canto I."

[*"The Age of Fable;" Bulfinch.*

CANTO II.

## Love.

**F**AIR Woman! thou wert framed a tender thing—  
 Th' avow'd adornment of voluptuous Ease!  
 When thy fond failings would presume to fling  
 O'er stern Ambition's path such snares as seize  
 Our minds' unguarded moments, till we leese <sup>(1)</sup>  
 Sight of God's stars above us, worshipping  
 At clay-created altars, must our knees  
 Seek purer shrines—Song's Pegasean Spring— <sup>(2)</sup>  
 Cursing, as I do now, dread Circe's chambering!

---

<sup>(1)</sup> Lose.

<sup>(2)</sup> Milton's "*Paradise Lost*:" Book VII.

## Love.

**G**AZE on God's sky! Go seek His mighty main!  
 These to Affection are rich recompense!  
 Mark yon bald mountain beetling 'bove the plain!  
 Such scenes inspire the Spirit with stern sense  
 Of Nature's naked grandeur — grown intense  
 We prize each purer part! Is this not more  
 Than dark'ning our wrought Souls with shadows  
     dense —  
 Torn thunder-clouds of Passion whose swoln store  
 Hangs bursting 'bove our heads, or whelms with ruth-  
     less roar? <sup>(1)</sup>

---

(1) "How beautiful this night! the balmiest sigh  
 Which vernal Zephyrs breathe in Evening's ear  
 Were discord to the speaking quietude

## CANTO II.

## Night Thoughts.

BLEST beam those thoughts, charm'd Night! that  
 thou can'st bring  
 Unto chaste Sorrow's children who explore  
 Thy shining secrets 'pon the pensive wing  
 Of musing Meditation: (1) from the shore  
 Of Time's tomb'd Ocean swells a solemn roar,  
 Droning of dead Eternities which grow  
 Gigantic on our sense — god-like we soar  
 Beyond Earth's blind existence: years ago  
 My Youth woke such a strain — list to its whilom flow!

---

That wraps this moveless scene. Heaven's ebon vault,  
 Studded with stars unutterably bright,  
 Through which the moon's unclouded grandeur rolls,  
 Seems like a canopy which Love has spread  
 To curtain her sleeping world."

[Shelley's "Queen Mab."

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(1) "Live not the stars and mountains? Are the waves  
 Without a spirit?"

[Byron's "Island;" Canto II.

## The Poet's Prayer.

ALMIGHTY Father!  
Lo, my Soul doth speak!—  
A deep Voice soundeth  
Which will not be still!  
Father! what am I?  
Give some sign  
In this vast silence—  
Be I worm, or God?  
All my full Soul  
Doth open to Thee,  
Mighty King!  
Oh, but one whisper—  
One faint gleam

## CANTO II.

To light my way!  
Alone, I tread the path  
Unto Thy throne,  
Thy throne — my home!  
Friends have I none  
Save Thine eternal stars;  
In agony, to them  
I lift mine arms,  
And oft they answer,  
For, gazing on them,  
The deep Voice is still!  
To me Time hath no measure;  
For in the realms of Thought  
Brief days are cycles,  
And the Winter's snow  
Oft blasts the buds of Spring,

And Age and Youth makes one! —  
Yet hail! bright realms of Thought!  
Thou art the Poet's clime!  
In thee there is no trace  
Of dull Decay!  
Born of the Soul,  
Immortal Youth is thine!  
From thy fair circle  
No dear friends depart!  
The *Poet's* friends are flowers,  
And unto *him* they speak  
Of Heaven, and far glories  
Bright as themselves!  
Oft, when the heart grows still,  
And dark'ning shadows fall  
Athwart the dim path



CANTO II.

That we tread in trust,  
We spy some gentle flower  
With blue eye turn'd toward Heaven,  
And lo! a voiceless prayer  
Ascendeth 'mid the perfume  
Of its praise!  
Sweet flower! thou hast not  
Spent thy heart in vain,  
For thy pure prayer  
Hath touch'd a silver chord  
Within my breast  
Of harmony divine:  
Have peace, proud Voice within! —  
This flower hath spoke  
More wisdom than the lips  
Of scepter'd Kings!

## Byron.

I RANGE from my fit theme. Thus I resume  
 The thread that leads through the long labyrinth  
 My failing feet must tread, till, from the Tomb,  
 I mount to Immortality, passing the plinth  
 Of Death's dim portal, like pale Hyacinth, (<sup>1</sup>)

(<sup>1</sup>) The boy Hyacinthus, Apollo's favorite, was one day engaged with him at a game of quoits. "Apollo, heaving aloft the discus, with strength mingled with skill, sent it high and far. Hyacinthus watched it as it flew, and excited with the sport ran forward to seize it, cager to make his throw, when the quoit bounded from the earth and struck him in the forehead. He fainted and fell. The God, as pale as himself, raised him and tried all his art to stanch the wound and retain the fitting life, but all in vain; the hurt was past the power of medicine. As when one has broken the stem of a lily in the garden it hangs its head and turns its flowers to earth, so the head of the dying boy, as if too heavy for his neck, fell over on his shoulder. 'Thou diest, Hyacinth,' so spoke Phœbus, 'robbed of thy youth by me. Thine is the suffering, mine the crime. Would that I could die for thee! But since that may not be, thou shalt live with me in memory and in song. My lyre shall celebrate thee, my song shall tell thy fate, and thou shalt

## CANTO II.

Fair flower besprent with blood. Boldly I weave  
 My summ'd Wrath's song, which many a museful  
 month

Hath been my sole, sweet solace; but I grieve  
 Less for *myself*, than *one* whose wrongs I would  
 retrieve! (1)

become a flower inscribed with my regrets.' While Apollo spoke, behold the blood which had flowed on the ground and stained the herbage, ceased to be blood; but a flower of hue more beautiful than the Tyrian sprang up, resembling the lily, if it were not that this is purple and silvery white. And this was not enough for Phœbus; but to confer still greater honor, he marked the petals with his sorrow and inscribed 'Ah! ah!' upon them, as we see to this day. The flower bears the name of Hyacinthus, and with every returning spring revives the memory of his fate. It was said that Zephyrus, (the West-wind), who was also fond of Hyacinthus and jealous of his preference of Apollo, blew the quoit out of its course to make it strike Hyacinthus."

[*"The Age of Fable;" Bulfinch.*

— " pitying the sad death

Of Hyacinthus, when the cruel breath  
 Of Zephyr slew him; Zephyr penitent,  
 Who now ere Phœbus mounts the firmament,  
 Fondles the flower amid the sobbing rain."

[*Keats's "Endymion:" Book I.*

(1) "The sentiment of justice is so natural, so universally acquired by all mankind, that it seems to me independent of all law, all party, all religion."

[*Voltaire.*

## Byron.

YEA! one hath stood amid this Wreck of Time,  
 "A ruin amidst ruins," (1) for he came,  
 A lonely wand'rer, from his own bleak clime —  
 A Land he might have loved, but that her shame  
 Had shut him from her till the very name  
 Did breathe but Desolation, and he strove  
 To still his bosom's pleadings with a fame  
 World-wide and grand, which in its tissue wove  
 All that Ambition craved, denying naught save Love!(2)

(1) *Byron's Childe Harold: "Canto IV; Stanza XXV.*

(2)           There are some by nature proud,  
 Who, patient in all else, demand but this —  
 To love and be beloved with gentleness:  
 And, being scorned, what wonder if they die  
 Some living death? This is not destiny,  
 But man's own wilful ill."

[*Shelley's "Julian and Maddalo."*

"His Poetry can only perish with the English Language."

[*Macaulay.*

## CANTO II.

## Byron.

COMPANIONS of his Spirit! Prophets! Ye  
 Lone walls that look'd on Rome's meridian blaze!  
 How did he love, 'mid thy dim shades, to be  
 Resolv'd to Contemplation whilst Earth's days  
 Shrank to Forgetfulness, as the soft rays  
 Of Summer moonlight chequer'd where they fell  
 O'er Arch and ivied Column, till the Fays —  
 Those tiny sprites that populate the dell,  
 Crept forth from leafy caves to chant their midnight  
 spell! (1)

---

(1) I deem no apology is required for the introduction here of the following exquisite and touching tribute, paid by one of England's most polished Poets to the memory of an illustrious brother: —

“ To the gate they came;  
 And, ere the man had half his story done,  
 Mine host received the Master — one long used

## Byron.

THERE breathes a peace through that blest pause  
from strife —

The calm, deep midnight, when the soft stars glow  
With milder radiance, and some loftier life  
Thrills all our Being, pleading, sweet and low,

---

To sojourn among strangers, every where  
(Go where he would, along the wildest track)  
Flinging a charm that shall not soon be lost,  
And leaving footsteps to be traced by those  
Who love the haunts of Genius ; one who saw,  
Observed, nor shunned the busy scenes of life,  
But mingled not, and mid the din, the stir,  
Lived as a separate Spirit.

Much had passed  
Since last we parted ; and those five short years —  
Much had they told ! His clustering locks were turned  
Grey ; nor did aught recall the Youth that swam  
From Sestos to Abydos. Yet his voice,  
Still it was sweet ; still from his eye the thought  
Flashed lightning-like, nor lingered on the way,

## CANTO II.

For these immortal natures, whilst the throe  
 Of an awak'd Intelligence withdraws  
 Our Souls from this seal'd Lazar-house of Woe  
 Wherein we faintly languish: — Man adores, —  
 Ay! *What?* — Is it Earth's lusts, or the eternal Cause?

---

Waiting for words. Far, far into the night  
 We sat, conversing — no unwelcome hour,  
 The hour we met; and, when Aurora rose,  
 Rising, we climbed the rugged Apennine. \* \* \* \*

\* \* \* \* He is now at rest;

And praise and blame fall on his ear alike,  
 Now dull in death. Yes, Byron, thou art gone,  
 Gone like a star that through the firmament  
 Shot and was lost, in its eccentric course  
 Dazzling, perplexing. Yet thy heart, methinks,  
 Was generous, noble — noble in its scorn  
 Of all things low or little; nothing there  
 Sordid or servile. If imagined wrongs  
 Pursued thee, urging thee sometimes to do  
 Things long regretted, oft, as many know,  
 None more than I, thy gratitude would build  
 On slight foundations: and, if in thy life

## Byron.

I LOVED him from my Childhood; of charm'd  
 Youth  
 He was the cherish'd idol that, with years,  
 Assumed the manlier likeness of a truth  
 Which woo'd and won my heart! What now  
 appears

---

Not happy, in thy death thou surely wert,  
 Thy wish accomplished; dying in the land  
 Where thy young mind had caught ethereal fire,  
 Dying in GREECE, and in a cause so glorious!  
 They in thy train — ah, little did they think,  
 As round we went, that they so soon should sit  
 Mourning beside thee, while a Nation mourned,  
 Changing her festal for her funeral song;  
 That they so soon should hear the minute-gun,  
 As morning gleamed on what remained of thee,  
 Roll o'er the sea, the mountains, numbering  
 Thy years of joy and sorrow.



## CANTO II.

A destiny, seem'd then, to my quick fears,  
 A mocking phantom which beguiled the sense  
 With dreams of young Ambition that my tears  
 Implor'd to stay! — Thank God! 'twas *no* pre-  
 tense! —

Each day it fonder grew — my lone lot's recompense!

---

Thou art gone ;  
*And he who would assail thee in thy grave,*  
*Oh, let him pause !* (1) For who among us all,  
 Tried as thou wert — even from thine earliest years, —  
 When wandering, yet unspoilt, a highland-boy —  
 Tried as thou wert, and with thy soul of flame ;  
 Pleasure, while yet the down was on thy cheek,  
 Uplifting, pressing, and to lips like thine,  
 Her charmèd cup — ah, who among us all  
 Could say he had not erred as much, and more ? ”

[*Rogers's "Italy : " Part I; Section XLIX*

(1) “ Such graves as his are pilgrim-shrines,  
 Shrines to no code or creed confined, —  
 The Delphian vales, the Palestines,  
 The Meccas of the mind.”

[*Halleck's "Burns."*

## Byron.

AND now, in Manhood's prime, I joy to feel  
 Deep yearnings stir within me to fulfill  
 Those boyish aspirations: <sup>(1)</sup> there doth steal  
 At times upon my Spirit the blest will  
 Of such exalted Essences, until  
 Forth from my brain a martial Pallas springs, <sup>(2)</sup>  
 Arm'd *cap-à-pie*, to aid my virgin skill;  
 And, spreading to the blast her eager wings,  
 Aloft my glad Soul soars where the blithe sky-lark  
 sings! <sup>(3)</sup>

(1) "The Child is father of the Man;" etc.  
 [Wordsworth's "*My Heart Leaps Up*."

(2) "Minerva, (Pallas, Athene,) the goddess of wisdom, was the offspring of Jupiter, without a mother. She sprang forth from his head, completely armed."  
 ["*The Age of Fable*;" *Bulfinch*.]

(3) "But chief, the sky-lark warbles high  
 His trembling thrilling extasy;  
 And, lessening from the dazzled sight,  
 Melts into air and liquid light."  
 [Gray's "*Posthumous Odes*,"

## CANTO II.

## Byron.

A FLOOD of melting memories doth swell  
 Upon my tide of Being with the thought  
 Of him I love so tenderly and well; <sup>(1)</sup>  
 Yet they who love, *avenge!* <sup>(2)</sup> I have not sought  
 This stern and bitter conflict — there is naught  
 I find to prize in Strife; but did I hear,  
 Unmov'd, dark doubtings which the quick <sup>(3)</sup> have  
                   wrought  
 Around the now defenceless, I should fear  
 To stand before my God, so base must I appear!

---

(1) “— No pulse in my ambition  
 Whose beatings were not measured from thy heart!”

[*Bulwer's "Richelieu:" Act II; Scene II.*]

(2) “And I, alas! too late to save!  
 Yet all I then could give, I gave,  
 'Twas some relief, our foe a grave.”

[*Byron's "Giaour."*]

(3) Quick — living. — “Now pile your dust upon the quick and dead,” etc.

[*Shakespeare's "Hamlet:" Act V; Scene I.*]

## Byron.

“AM I my brother’s keeper?” could I say? <sup>(1)</sup>  
 Am I my brother’s keeper? Yea, am I!  
 Dark Slenths of Malice! ye must meet at bay  
 Him ye have hounded, for your wolfish cry  
 Hath rous’d a tardy Justice! — I deny  
 Coarse accusations such warp’d Souls have bred,  
 Casting a cunning net where the foul Lie<sup>(2)</sup>  
 Assumes a Seraph’s aspect! — Ye have plead,  
 Unanswer’d, your fell cause — *I vindicate the dead!*<sup>(3)</sup>

(1) “And the Lord said unto Cain, where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: *Am I my brother’s keeper?*” [*Genesis: Chap. IV; v. 9.*]

(2) I wish it distinctly understood that these epithets are in nowise applied to the authoress of “*Uncle Tom’s Cabin.*”

(3) “You have deeply ventured;  
 But all must do so who would greatly win:” etc.  
 [*Byron’s “Marino Faliero:” Act I; Scene II.*]

CANTO II.

## Byron.

GENTLE Patroclus! when triumphant Troy  
Rejoic'd that thy bright prototype might wield  
No more the gory falchion, what alloy  
Of Prudence stay'd his speed as o'er the field  
Flash'd great Achilles' car? <sup>(1)</sup> Shall I not shield

---

(1) "Thus far Patroclus had succeeded to his utmost wish in repelling the Trojans and relieving his countrymen, but now came a change of fortune. Hector, borne in his chariot, confronted him. Patroclus threw a vast stone at Hector, which missed its aim, but smote Cebriones, the charioteer, and knocked him from the car. Hector leaped from the chariot to rescue his friend, and Patroclus also descended to complete his victory. Thus the two heroes met face to face. At this decisive moment the poet, as if reluctant to give Hector the victory, records that Phœbus took part against Patroclus. He struck the helmet from his head and the lance from his hand. At the same moment *an obscure Trojan wounded him in the back*, and Hector, pressing forward, pierced him with his spear. He fell, mortally wounded. Then arose a tremendous conflict for the body of Patroclus; but his armor was at once taken possession of by Hector, who, retiring a short distance, divested himself of his own armor and put on that of Achilles, then returned

Thee, too, *my* wrong'd Patroclus? — Ay! Truth's  
 sake <sup>(1)</sup> [hath steel'd  
 Gird me with God's great might? Thy cause  
 Mine arm with mail of proof, the which shall make  
 Me equal to my task, nor threats my purpose shake!

---

to the fight. \* \* \* \* Then Achilles went forth to battle inspired with a rage and thirst for vengeance that made him irresistible. \* \* \* \* Achilles secured behind his shield waited the approach of Hector. When he came within reach of his spear, Achilles choosing with his eye a vulnerable part where the armor leaves the neck uncovered, aimed his spear at that part, and Hector fell, death-wounded, and feebly said, 'Spare my body! Let my parents ransom it, and let me receive funeral rites from the sons and daughters of Troy.' To which Achilles replied, 'Dog, name not ransom nor pity to me, on whom you have brought such dire distress. No! trust me, nought shall save thy carcass from the dogs. Though twenty ransoms and thy weight in gold were offered, I would refuse it all.' So saying he stripped the body of its armor, and fastening cords to the feet tied them behind his chariot, leaving the body to trail along the ground. Then mounting the chariot he lashed the steeds and so dragged the body to and fro before the city." [“*The Age of Fable;*” *Bulfinch.*]

---

(1) “ Truth crushed to earth shall rise again :  
 The eternal years of God are hers ;  
 But Error, wounded, writhes with pain,  
 And dies among his worshippers.”

[*Bryant's “ Battle-field.”*]

CANTO II.

## Byron.

**I** QUESTION not the cold, <sup>(1)</sup> though some have  
 been  
 The Grave should not have shielded — these shall  
 sleep! —  
 Their Souls now stand to answer each past sin  
 Before a stern Tribunal, and must reap  
 E'en as their days have sown! — <sup>(2)</sup> I could but  
 weep  
 O'er noble Minds which were perchance abused  
 By Spite or jealous Rancour, but there creep,  
 Like vipers i' the sun, a brood that used  
 Amiss the Mind's bright gift! — These, *these* have I  
 accused!

---

<sup>(1)</sup> Dead.

<sup>(2)</sup> — “for whatsoever a man *soweth*, that shall he also *reap*.”

[*Galatians: Chap. VI; v. 7.*]





CANTO II.

## Byron.

THOU who art Crime's Avenger! <sup>(1)</sup> it is thine  
 To justify the Right! Ne'er yet, unheard, [vine  
 With thee the guiltless plead! Here, where the  
 O'er mantles grim Decay, and the sage Bird  
 Of Night alone proclaims her plaintive word  
 O'er regal Desolation — where *he* stood,  
 The heavy-hearted "Pilgrim" long-deferr'd  
 From love that was his due — *here* shall the flood  
 Of Retribution rise, invoking blood for blood!

---

The obscene ravens, clamorous o'er the dead;  
 The vultures, to the conqueror's banner true,  
 Who feed where Desolation first has fed,  
 And whose wings rain contagion; how they fled,  
 When like Apollo, from his golden bow,  
 The Pythian of the age one arrow sped,  
 And smiled! The spoilers tempt no second blow;  
 They fawn on the proud feet that spurn them as they go."

[Shelley's "Adonais."

---

(1) Nemesis.

## Byron.

STERN Justice bared my blade! — Let me be just!  
 I would not swell, one *jot*, <sup>(1)</sup> her deed de-  
 plor'd! — <sup>(2)</sup>

I will not swerve, one *tittle*, from my trust! [Sword,  
 Vengeance, which smiteth with Truth's two-edg'd  
 Shall scathe her as the Lightnings of the Lord! —  
 Have then the Dead no voice, and must they be  
 The spoil of each foul whisper — the abhorr'd  
 Defamers of our dust? Alas! that we [free! <sup>(3)</sup>

Should have forsook our trust — first birthright of the

(1) "For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one *jot* or one *tittle* shall in nowise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."

[*St. Matthew: Chap. V; v. 18.*

(2) "The accusing spirit, which flew up to heaven's chancery with the oath,

(3) Men of England and America — ye who are my judges — answer! Shall the fame of our great Poet be transmitted to posterity sullied by this black reproach? "No!" I hear your universal sentence, "let it perish in oblivion, for, surviving, it must ever cast a shade upon that Nation's honor it insulted, and whose sense of justice and propriety it so grossly violated."

CANTO II.

## Byron.

WHAT! was the Land of Washington he loved —  
 A Land he loved and honor'd as his own, — (1)  
 (The foster-child of Freedom, who had proved  
 To her, as Greece, that love by deeds alone), —  
 Was *she* the first to cast the Pharisee's stone, (2)

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blushed as he gave it in; and the recording angel, as he wrote it down, dropped a tear upon the word and blotted it out forever." [Sterne.]

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- (1) "Can tyrants but by tyrants conquer'd be,  
 And Freedom find no champion and no child  
 Such as Columbia saw arise when she  
 Sprung forth a Pallas, arm'd and undefiled?  
 Or must such minds be nourish'd in the wild,  
 Deep in the unpruned forest, 'midst the roar  
 Of cataracts, where nursing Nature smiled  
 On infant Washington? Has Earth no more  
 Such seeds within her breast, or Europe no such shore?"

[Byron's "*Childe Harold*:" Canto IV; Stanza XCVI.]

[Continued on next page.]

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(2) "So, when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her."

[St. John: Chap. VIII; v. 7.]

And brand Dishonor on a deathless name?

Scorch'd be the scorpion tongue! — its harvest  
sown <sup>(1)</sup>

From winds reap Whirlwinds of eternal shame, <sup>(2)</sup>  
And, o'er that damning page, Scorn breathe her withering  
flame! <sup>(3)</sup>

“ And such they are — and such they will be found :  
Not so Leonidas and Washington,  
Whose every battle-field is holy ground,  
Which breathes of nations saved, not worlds undone.  
How sweetly on the ear such echoes sound!  
While the mere victor's may appal or stun  
The servile and the vain, such names will be  
A watchword till the future shall be free.”

[Byron's "Don Juan : " Canto VIII; Stanza V.

(1) [M.S. "Sear'd be the serpent tongue! — its harvest sown," etc. — E.]

(2) "For they have sown the *wind*, and they shall reap the *whirlwind*."

[Hosea : Chap. VIII; v. 7.

(3) "Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?  
He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth  
in his heart.

He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor  
taketh up a reproach against his neighbour." [Psalms, XIV; v. 1, 2, 3.

"Thou shalt not go up and down as a tale-bearer among thy people; neither  
shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour: I am the Lord."

[Leviticus : Chap. XIX; v. 16.

## CANTO II.

## Byron.

“MERCY is for the merciful!” <sup>(1)</sup> Ah, not in vain,  
 Great Nemesis! “The Pilgrim’s” prayer arose  
 At thy sublimest shrine! — that cry of pain  
 Hath found a fitting echo — one that shows  
 Man may not all forsake what God hath chose  
 To sanctify as holy! — Hath Shame not  
 Reverted on *her* head? — those cruel blows,  
 Wherewith she sought to stain by one foul blot  
 A bleeding reputation, fallen to *her* lot? — <sup>(2)</sup>

---

(1) “Lines on hearing that Lady Byron was ill.”

(2) “Even in the afternoon of her best days;” etc.

[Shakespeare’s “King Richard III:” Act III; Scene VII.

“And thou, who never yet of human wrong  
 Left the unbalanced scale, great Nemesis!  
 Here, where the ancient paid thee homage long —  
 Thou, who didst call the Furies from the abyss,  
 And round Orestes bade them howl and hiss  
 For that unnatural retribution — just,  
 Had it but been from hands less near — in this  
 Thy former realm, I call thee from the dust!

Dost thou not hear my heart? — Awake! thou shalt, and must.

## Byron.

“ON her and hers,” <sup>(1)</sup> for lo! a Priest of Heaven,  
 Wept by the World as Wolf of his own Fold,  
 Attests Time’s awful vengeance! — <sup>(2)</sup> Yea, the  
 leaven

“ It is not that I may not have incurr’d  
 For my ancestral faults or mine the wound  
 I bleed withal, and, had it been conferr’d  
 With a just weapon, it had flow’d unbound;  
 But now my blood shall not sink in the ground;  
 To thee I do devote it — *thou* shalt take  
 The vengeance, which shall yet be sought and found,  
 Which if *I* had not taken for the sake ——

But let that pass — I sleep, but thou shalt yet awake.”

[Byron’s “*Childe Harold* :” *Canto IV*; *Stanzas CXXXII, CXXXIII*.]

<sup>(1)</sup> — “and I leave my curse  
 On her and hers forever! —”

[Byron’s “*Marino Faliero* :” *Act V*; *Scene III*.]

<sup>(2)</sup> “Unnatural deeds do breed unnatural troubles; infected minds to their  
 deaf pillows will discharge their secrets.”

[Shakespeare’s “*Macbeth* :” *Act V*; *Scene I*.]

I clip the following from the “*Eastern Argus*,” published in Portland,  
 Maine, U. S. A. :—

## CANTO II.

Of ruthless deeds will rise <sup>(1)</sup> though Love seem  
 cold  
 And Justice' self insensate as the mould  
 That shrouds her voiceless victim; yet, at last,  
 Truth's trumpet-tone shall speak, and men behold  
 Each great Wrong righted—each Pretender cast,  
 Stripp'd of the Garb of Grace, <sup>(2)</sup> all naked to the  
 blast! <sup>(3)</sup>

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“—————.”

The following by Whittier, quoted by ——— at the close of his argument,  
 says about all anybody will care to say of ———:—

“ So fallen ! so lost ! the light withdrawn  
 Which once he wore !  
 The glory of his gray hairs gone  
 Forevermore !

“ Revile him not ! the Tempter hath  
 A snare for all,  
 And pitying tears, not Scorn and Wrath  
 Befit his fall.

[Next page.]

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<sup>(1)</sup> “ Foul deeds will rise,  
 Though all the Earth o'erwhelm them, to men's eyes.”

[Shakespeare's “Hamlet :” Act I; Scene II.

<sup>(2)</sup> “Robes, and furr'd gowns, hide all. Plate sin with gold,

<sup>(3)</sup> “ What a fool is he who locks his door to keep out spirits, who has in his

## Byron.

**F**AREWELL! ye harpy horde! I could forgive,  
 But some are past Forgiveness! This, my verse,  
 Shall sink into men's hearts, and years but give  
 My page a deeper meaning to rehearse  
 This Drama of the Past! There sleeps no curse

---

“ O, dumb be Passion's stormy rage,  
 When he who might  
 Have lighted up and led his Age,  
 Falls back in Night.

“ Scorn! would the Angels laugh, to mark  
 A bright Soul driven,  
 Fiend-goaded, down the endless dark,  
 From Hope and Heaven?

“ Let not the Land once proud of him  
 Insult him now,  
 Nor brand, with deeper shame, his dim,  
 Dishonored brow!

[Next page.]

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And the strong lance of justice hurtless breaks;  
 Arm it in rags, a pygmy's straw doth pierce it.”

[Shakespeare's "King Lear:" Act IV; Scene VI.]

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own bosom a spirit he dares not meet alone; whose voice, smothered far down, and



## CANTO II.

More awful than the Voice of Conscience! — this,  
*This* shall my line awake! — thou dusky nurse  
 That brood'st o'er guilty bosoms,<sup>(1)</sup> I dismiss  
 To thee such faithless Souls unfit to share Love's bliss!

“ But let its humbled sons, instead,  
 From sea to lake,  
 A long lament, as for the dead,  
 In sadness make.

“ Of all we loved and honored, naught  
 Save Power remains,  
 A fallen Angel's pride of thought,  
 Still strong in chains.

“ All else is gone : from those great eyes  
 The Soul has fled :  
 When Faith is lost, when Honor dies,  
 The man is dead ! ”

[*John G. Whittier.* (1)]

(1) Although these lines were originally written upon another, justice demands that we should “Render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's.”

piled over with mountains of earthliness, is yet like the forewarning trumpet of doom !”

[*Harriet Beecher Stowe.*

— “ there is no future pang  
 Can deal that justice on the self-condemn'd  
 He deals on his own soul.”

[*Byron's “ Manfred : ” Act III ; Scene I.*

(1) “ Every man's *conscience* is a thousand swords,” etc.

[*Shakespeare's “ King Richard III : ” Act V ; Scene III.*

## Circus Maximus.

WHILOM the mighty Circus curv'd afar  
 Its massy wall, now levell'd with the dust! —  
 Flew the fleet courser! — glanc'd the glittering  
     car! —  
 Swell'd the deep shout of Triumph or Disgust! —  
 While half a million graced the glorious just, <sup>(1)</sup>  
 And all apace the mad excitement grew! —  
 Tyrants applauded with a thirsty lust,  
 Seeking the semblance of a pleasaunce <sup>(2)</sup> new!  
 Such shone the splendrous scene with many a shifting  
     hue! <sup>(3)</sup>

---

<sup>(1)</sup> Also written *joust*.

<sup>(2)</sup> Pleasaunce — pleasure. — “Faire-seemely *pleasaunce* each to other makes,”  
 etc. [Spenser's “*Faerie Queene* :” *Book I*; *Canto II*.

<sup>(3)</sup> [M. S. “Such shone the splendrous scene, charg'd with chameleon  
 hue!” — E.]

CANTO II.

## Circus Maximus.

LOW lie thy Towers of Strength! — Thy Walls of  
Pride! —

Throned Palaces that lined thy long expanse  
Where swell'd the living surge, till the loud tide  
Of clamorous acclaim rous'd from his trance —  
The Banquet and the Bowl — he whose haught  
glance

Bade the bold sports begin! — his kerchief  
waves! — <sup>(1)</sup>

At which sweetsight proud-snorting steeds advance,  
While with the word — the sign each stallion  
craves — [slaves!

The thrilling start is made! — Rejoice! Lust's loving

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<sup>(1)</sup> When the clamors of the people had reached a great height, it was the custom of Nero to cast his handkerchief from the window of the adjoining Palace where he sat at banquet; by which signal, permission was granted for the sports of the Circus to begin.

## Circus Maximus. <sup>(1)</sup>

**H**ERE urg'd his steeds the flying Charioteer! —  
 He nears the goal, and thrice ten thousand throats  
 Salute the Victor, as in mad career  
 The gallant brutes strain every nerve, and floats  
 Each free mane on the wind! — the Conqueror gloats  
 O'er the rich prize he may, in fancy, clasp! —  
 'Tis won! 'Tis won! — the gain on which he doats  
 Shall soon be his! — how the wild coursers gasp —  
 Aha! it matters not, — *the palm is in his grasp!*

---

(1) “Le grande cirque occupait entre les monts Aventin et Palatin un espace allongé de 2400 pieds de longueur sur 450 de large, commençant à quelque distance du Tibre, près la place Bocca della Verità. Il pouvait, au temps de Vespasien, qui l'agrandit, contenir 250,000 spectateurs, et, sous Constantin, près de 400,000. On y donnait des jeux dits circenscs, consistant en luttes d'athlètes, en courses à pied, à cheval, en chars, etc.”

CANTO II.

## St. Peter's.

AND thou — cloud-cleaving and resplendent dome! —  
 High shrine of the Almighty! (1) I behold  
 Again thy mimic Heaven! — once more may roam  
 'Neath its colossal span — the mightiest mould  
 Of Man's inspir'd creation — where, unroll'd,  
 Thy matchless magnitude beyond me soars,  
 Piercing the sapphire vault as if to hold  
 Converse with the Eternal! Let us pause,  
 St. Peter's! at thy plinth, before the mystic Cause,

---

(1) "The hand that rounded Peter's dome,  
 And groined the aisles of Christian Rome,  
 Wrought in a sad sincerity;  
 Himself from God he could not free;  
 He builded better than he knew; —  
 The conscious stone to beauty grew."

*[Emerson's "Problem."*

St. Peter's. <sup>(1)</sup>

TO ask why thou wert rear'd — why men have made  
 A God unto themselves, crowning their days  
 With sweet heart-offerings? Not till thou shalt  
 fade,  
 O, Sun of papal Splendour! and thy rays  
 Pale as the dim forgotten, mock the blaze  
 Of that which now thou art — nay! till thy site  
 Be of great things unknown — until decays  
 Each instinct of the Mind, and utter Night  
 Brood o'er the blighted Earth, may aught oppugn His  
 night!

---

(1) “La longueur du temple est de 575 pieds; celle de la nef transversale, de 417; la largeur de la grande nef du milieu est de 87 pieds, et on compte 142 pieds du pavé jusqu'à la voûte. Les deux anges enfantins qui soutiennent les bénitiers en marbre n'ont pas moins de 6 pieds. — Cette basilique est à croix latine et à trois nefs; celle du milieu est divisée par huit gros piliers qui soutiennent quatre grands arcs de chaque côté: ceux-ci répondent à autant de chapelles. A chacun des piliers sont adossés deux pilastres cannelés d'ordre corinthien, qui

CANTO II.

## St. Peter's.

WHO shall unfold the Future? Centuries  
 Have run their varying round since He arose,  
 The lowly Nazarene, who framed decrees  
 For princely Potentates, and o'er the woes  
 Of flesh spake still triumphant in the close  
 Of His immortal mission, with a glance  
 Of that exalted Prophecy which throws  
 Its gleam o'er generations whose expanse,  
 To Inspiration's eye, teems with significance.

---

ont 8 pieds de largeur et 77 de hauteur, y compris la base et le chapiteau; ils soutiennent un entablement de 18 pieds de hauteur, qui règne tout autour de l'église. Entre les pilastres sont deux rangs de niches; celles du bas renferment des statues de marbre, de 15 pieds. Sur chacun des grands arcs sont deux figures en stuc, de 15 pieds de haut, représentant des Vertus. Les contre-pilastres qui correspondent sous les arcs sont ornés de deux médaillons, soutenus séparément par deux enfants de marbre blanc aux formes molles et rebondies; ces médaillons renferment les portraits de différents papes. Entre ces médaillons on voit deux autres enfants portant les attributs pontificaux; le tout a été sculpté en bas-reliefs sous la direction du Bernin. La grande voûte de l'église est décorée de caissons à rosaces en stuc doré. Le pavé fut formé de beaux marbres, sous la direction de Jacques de la Porte et du Bernin. \* \* \* \* \*

## St. Peter's.

UNTO this man, or God — albeit which  
 The world holds hot dispute — hast thou been  
 rais'd,  
 O, Christ's enthron'd Cathedral! to enrich,  
 As a Queen Jewel, the starr'd crown that blaz'd  
 O'er Popish Majesty! — Indeed amaz'd  
 Had been the humble fisherman whose name  
 Thou bear'st, stupendous Pile — could he have  
 gazed  
 On those transcendent glories that became  
 The Synonym of Power — the Harbinger of Fame!

---

Cette immense façade en travertin n'a pas moins de 370 pieds de largeur et 149 de hauteur. Les huit colonnes corinthiennes, qui, vues de l'obélisque, paraissent si petites, ont 88 pieds d'élévation et 8 pieds 5 pouces de diamètre. L'attique est couronnée de 13 statues colossales (Jésus-Christ et les Apôtres), de 17 pieds de haut. Aux extrémités sont deux horloges, dessinées par l'architecte Valadier et placées sous Pie VI (l'une marque les heures à l'italienne). On entre



CANTO II.

## Vatican. <sup>(1)</sup>

THE Prince of Palaces beams on our sight! —  
 The treasure-house of Learning and of Art! —  
 The Vatican, where rescued from the Night  
 Of perish'd Ages pines a beauteous part  
 Of the too-beauteous Past! — spread, like a chart,  
 Before the dazzl'd vision we essay  
 To trace to its far fount "The mighty Heart," <sup>(2)</sup>  
 Whose fluttering pulse-beats, quickening to Decay,  
 Enchain, but cheat the sense, by Beauty's blinding ray! —

---

par cinq portes dans un magnifique portique de 47 pieds de largeur et de 439 pieds de longueur, y compris les vestibules des extrémités, et l'on voit les statues équestres de Constantin le Grand, par le *Bernin* et de Charlemagne, par *Cornacchini*.  
[*Du Pays.*

---

(1) "Le Vatican, — capitoie de la Rome moderne, est moins un palais qu'une réunion de palais, d'édifices irréguliers auxquels travaillèrent les plus célèbres architectes, *Bramante (Raphaël), Pirro Ligorio, Dominique Fontana, Charles Maderne, Bernin*. — Il est à trois étages, renferme une infinité de salles, de gal-

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(2) *Byron's "Childe Harold."* Canto IV; Stanza LXXXVIII.

## Vatican.

**A** BEAUTY now no more, save through this gleam  
 That permeates the Present in such shapes—  
 Fair Children of the Chisel—the fond dream  
 Of each God-gifted Genius who escapes,  
 Perchance, Time's transient tablet which but  
     drapes,  
 With Memory's green garland, the bright name  
 His bays bequeath'd high Art; but, from the apes  
 Of stern Sublimity, her face, for shame,  
 Rome's grief-worn Goddess veils!—quench'd is her  
     ancient flame!

---

eries, de chapelles, de corridors, une bibliothèque, un musée immense, un jardin; on y compte 20 cours, 8 grands escaliers et 200 escaliers de service. Bonanni (*Templi vaticani historia*) prétend que le Vatican contient 13,000 chambres, en y comprenant les souterrains. Ce qui manque à ce vaste ensemble de bâtiments, c'est une façade extérieure. Du côté par où on l'aborde, il est masqué par la colonnade de la place de Saint Pierre." *[Du Pays.]*

CANTO II.

## Catacombs. <sup>(1)</sup>

THOU City of the Dead! — the dreary seat  
 Of Death and Desolation! May these be  
 The men that tamed the Proud, and thrall'd the  
 Great? —

Why! *Time* out-cæsars Cæsar! — <sup>(2)</sup> his decree  
 Hath levell'd Prince with Peasant! — lo! we see  
 All one! — perchance the Conqueror's crumbling  
 mound

May crown some statelier cell, but now no knee  
 Bends in forc'd adulation, nor is found,

On Earth, one far-fled shadow of their vantage-ground!

---

(1) “Les Catacombes de Rome s'étendent dans diverses directions autour des remparts de la ville et dans la campagne. On en connaît une soixantaine, et on estime qu'il en existe trois fois plus à découvrir. Elles forment un dédale de chemins souterrains, de corridors étroits et bas, présentant de distance en distance les espèces de chambres carrées qui servaient d'oratoires aux chrétiens.”

[*Du Pays.*

(2) — “it *out-herods* Herod.”

[*Shakespeare's "Hamlet": Act III; Scene II.*

## Words of Parting.

**M**Y strain draws nigh its close, but it hath been  
 A not unwelcome task: what though its stream  
 Be swoln by burning tears?— if Genius glean  
 Aught from bow'd Torture's teachings — blend one  
     beam  
 With her Cæsarean crown—in sooth Hope's dream  
 Of high Ambition hath not vied in vain! (1)  
 I may not live to mark men laud my theme,  
 Nor cozening critics question, nor remain  
 The sick spectator of a wanton World's disdain

---

(1) "All this hath somewhat worn me, and may wear,  
 But must be borne. I stoop not to despair;  
 For I have battled with mine agony,  
 And made me wings wherewith to overfly  
 The narrow circus of my dungeon wall," etc.

[Byron's "*Lament of Tasso*."

CANTO II.

## Words of Parting.

**T**HOUGH such should be accorded as my meed! —  
 I' faith I care not! for Fame hath become,  
 To these young eyes, a harvest sown of seed  
 Whose bloom is Barrenness: not for full sum  
 Of hollow Approbation, nor hot hum  
 Of Mammon's myriads in blood-bought applause,  
 Would I unbend my Being, but were dumb. —  
 I clasp'd Fray's falchion in *another's* cause —  
 That blade, though bathed with blood, was bared by  
 Love's bright laws! (1)

---

(1) "Love took up the harp of Life, and smote on all the chords  
 with might;  
 Smote the chord of Self, that, trembling, passed in music  
 out of sight."

[Tennyson's "Locksley Hall."

"Let fame go —

## Words of Parting.

STILL it may be I have not sung in vain,  
 Nor sown Hope's seed to ashes: hence shall  
 flood,  
 Perchance, a band of warriors, but refrain  
 From dark self-slaughter of the Dragon's brood, (1)

I care not much what shall become of fame,  
 So I save love and do mine own soul right;" etc.

[*Swinburne's "Chastelard": Act IV; Scene I.*]

(1) "While Cadmus stood over his conquered foe, contemplating its vast size, a voice was heard (from whence he knew not, but he heard it distinctly) commanding him to take the dragon's teeth and sow them in the earth. He obeyed. He made a furrow in the ground, and planted the teeth, destined to produce a crop of men. Scarce had he done so when the clods began to move, and the points of spears appear above the surface. Next helmets with their nodding plumes came up, and next the shoulders and breasts and limbs of men with weapons, and in time a harvest of armed warriors. Cadmus alarmed prepared to encounter a new enemy, but one of them said to him, 'Meddle not with our civil war.' With that he who had spoken smote one of his earth-born brothers with a sword, and he himself fell pierced with an arrow from another. The latter fell a victim to a fourth, and in like manner the whole crowd dealt with each

## CANTO II.

Turning their arms, unstain'd with brothers' blood,  
 'Gainst the pale Vampires of the peaceful Grave!<sup>(1)</sup>  
 The issue bides with Heaven! If, from this bud,  
 A Flower of Beauty spring, <sup>(2)</sup> fair shall it wave  
 Though he that loved it lie, calm, in his clay-cold cave!<sup>(3)</sup>

---

other till all fell slain with mutual wounds, except five survivors. One of these cast away his weapons and said, 'Brothers, let us live in peace!' These five joined with Cadmus in building his city, to which he gave the name of Thebes."

[*"The Age of Fable;" Bulfinch.*]

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(1) [M.S. "'Gainst the gaunt Prowlers of th' unguarded Grave!" — E.]

(2) "This bud of love, by Summer's ripening breath,  
 May prove a beauteous flower when next we meet."  
 [*Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet:" Act II; Scene II.*]

(3) "— and what if thou withdraw  
 In silence from the living, and no friend  
 Take note of thy departure? All that breathe  
 Will share thy destiny. The gay will laugh  
 When thou art gone, the solemn brood of care  
 Plod on, and each one, as before, will chase  
 His favorite phantom; yet all these shall leave  
 Their mirth and their employments, and shall come  
 And make their bed with thee."

[*Bryant's "Thanatopsis."*]

## Words of Parting.

FAREWELL! — Fierce floods, that bore 'pon their  
 broad breast  
 Me and my bark as bubbles, ebb away!  
 Now fleet-wing'd Fancy flies her humble nest,  
 Leaving me, lonely, 'mid this Curse of Clay; <sup>(1)</sup>  
 Feeling all past Peace wreck'd, the Future's ray  
 Bound by black thralls that threat pale Peril's  
 path —  
 Weird-beek'ning Aspects which would blast my  
 way —  
 Semblance of shapes that were: Ambition's  
 wraith, [faith!  
 And the sweet shade of Love, scoff at mine ancient

---

(1) " 'For here, forlorn and lost, I tread  
 With fainting steps and slow —



CANTO II.

## Words of Parting.

SO be it! If Earth bear no further fruit,  
 I rank Remembrance, bitter though it be,  
 Hope's holiest heritage, like some sweet lute  
 Breathing long-buried sorrows o'er Life's sea  
 From the lull'd Past, until, 'yond <sup>(1)</sup> that far lee,  
 Swelling against those winds wherewith I strive,  
 Comes, calm and clear, an echo full and free —  
 Light siren-songs which woo'd, with Love's gay  
 gyve,  
 My fond, o'er-ardent Youth! — feelings years may not  
 rive!<sup>(2)</sup>

---

Where wilds, immeasurably spread,  
 Seem lengthening as I go."

[*Goldsmith's "Hermit."*]

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(1) Beyond.

(2) "When to the sessions of sweet silent thought  
 I summon up remembrance of things past," etc.

[*Shakespeare's "Sonnet XXX."*]

## Words of Parting.

A FOND Farewell!—Aye! thou dear theme, Adieu!  
 Meeting mere strangers, as sad playmates press  
 The hallow'd hand at parting, to renew  
 Their wide-dividing ways through Wilderness,  
 Sun, Storm, or Shadow — wilds which blast or  
 bless —  
 Press we the Palm of Friendship!<sup>(1)</sup> Thoughts  
 wax things  
 Of individual Essence, nor live less  
 Than those bright Beings that inspire the springs  
 Of Poesy's sweet strain with Pegasean wings!

---

(1) — “while o'er the brim of life's beaker I dip;  
 Though the cup may next moment be shatter'd, the  
 wine  
 Spilt, one deep health I'll pledge, and that health  
 shall be thine,” etc.

[Owen Meredith's “Lucile:” Part I; Canto V.

CANTO II.

## Farewell.

**M**Y forge-lights flicker 'bove a fading brand —  
 Hoar, stark and soulless, for all flame hath fled! —  
 Its last spark is extinguish'd! — lo! the hand  
 That fashion'd it, now nerveless as the dead,  
 Drops its weak grasp! — with a dull load, like  
     lead,  
 Existence *aches* upon me! — I awake,  
 The old, unalter'd Being, that for bread  
     Receiv'd from men a stone — for fish a snake! <sup>(1)</sup>  
 Truth's deathless triumph dawns! — Time shall stern  
     vengeance take! <sup>(2)</sup>

---

(1) "Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a *serpent*?"

[*St. Matihew: Chap. VII; v. 9, 10.*

(2) The concluding line refers not to myself, but to him I defend.





Hymn to Mt. Blanc.



Hymn to the Ocean.



## Hymn to Mt. Blanc.

**M**AJESTIC Monarch of the mountain-cloud!  
Proud Prophet! Ye whose scarr'd, sky-towering  
top

Is lifted 'bove thy kindred — lost in air!  
From whose veil'd bosom to the void below,  
Deat'ning descendeth, ever and anon,  
The frozen Torrent of the Avalanche  
With torn and thund'rous echoes from afar!  
Along whose haught and bleak, bolt-riven brow  
The awful Hand of Time hath Ages lain!  
Scath'd Prince of Pride! brave-scarr'd and beaten  
By the Tempest's wrath!

From whose icy heart

The mountain brooklet leaps with wild, mad joy,  
From crag to crag, into the gulf beneath!  
Lo, do I love Ye! On my knees I bow,  
And lift my Soul, in ecstasy, to Thee,  
Lone Hierarch!

List! from the peaceful plain  
Soft-tinkling herd-bells of the shepherd's fold  
Rise on the gentle wind in fairy chime,  
Whilst mournful mem'ries of departed days  
Drift, dreamlike, 'pon the placid ev'ning air.  
Far, far aloft, along Thy fields of snow,  
The full-orb'd Moon hath pour'd her pallid flood;  
There, soaring silent through Thy silv'ry shroud,  
Thou seek'st communion with the starry Night!  
Yea! do I love Ye 'neath blest Dian's beam —



When warm Aurora, budding o'er Thy brow,  
Doth dye with purple kisses Thy pale front! —  
Then art Thou fair as on that first, far day  
When Thou wert moulded by the Master's hand!

O, Answer! what is Man?

Stupendous Pile!

If I, as Thee, might wanton with the Clouds,  
Or garb me in the Glories of the Night,  
Or bind the Rainbow's Chaplet round my brow,  
Methinks I still were happy, since with me  
Mere love or hate of *Man* must link with naught! —  
*Then* were my mates the Lightning and the Storm —  
My wrath, rous'd Jove's red-wing'd Artillery —  
E'en at my feet each star-crown'd crag should fall,  
Shaking the firm-set Earth to her fix'd base! —

I'd crave compactures with the wandering Winds,  
Or force from them their tale of bastard birth —  
Their errand — whence they came — e'en Who  
                  commands!

O, Christ! lone Crag, I love Ye! — Yea! my Soul,  
Cleft, wrung, rebellious, doth defy control —  
Sets her haught heel upon the writhing worm  
That cribs her in this Charnel-house of Clay! —  
Avaunt! the thought is Madness! — *I AM THINE!*



## Hymn to the Ocean.

GRAND Anthem of Jehovah! Give Thee Hail!  
O, Mighty One! Give Answer! On Thy wail,  
That sounds forever from Thy farthest shore,  
The deep Te Deum of ten thousand Psalms!  
O, moanful music of the Lurley's lay,  
The soft complainings of the Summer breeze  
That sweetly slumbers 'pon Thy heaving breast,  
Which, like a mother's, trembling at its touch,  
Doth make Thy very fondness kin to pain!

Anon! behold! Thy peaceful sleep is broke,  
And, like a chieftain on the battle-morn,  
Thou risest, naked, to confront the Storm,

Or mov'st, majestic, 'neath His tyrant touch!  
Then art Thou mighty! Then are we that gaze  
Upon Thee thrill'd — stir'd to the Soul's deep spring  
With awful whispers of that viewless God  
Whose voice Thou and the lawless Winds obey!

O, boundless Waste of Waters! Soulless Solitude!  
Wild waves eternal-rising crest on crest —  
Forever-dying born to Life anew!

O, Mighty One! Give Answer! I would search  
The secret shadow of Thy haunting pain!  
Tell Thou of them deep-hid, forevermore,  
Within Thy hollow heart's sarcophagi!  
Tell to the loving wife, the tender maid,  
Of him whose bones lie bleaching on Thy sands,

Unmeasur'd fathoms 'neath Thy breakers' din!  
Poor wretch! devoted to Heaven's warring Gods!—  
O'ertaken by the giant Whirlwind's wrath!  
Tell of that rosy morn his sheeny sail  
Bore yon lone wand'rer from the smiling shore,  
When Thou did'st hearken to a fond wife's prayer  
For prosp'rous voyage sped by gentle Winds!  
Tell of the murk, black Night! The howling Storm!  
Thine angry billows capt with yeasty foam!  
The Lightning's glare! The Gale's wild lullaby!  
The Heart's despair! The fierce, brief struggle!  
And the freed Soul's flight to realms afar!  
Ah! long, long ere those aching eyes shall greet  
The husband, or the lover, far away;  
For Thou, Most Mighty! mark'd him for Thine own,  
Ere yet his boyhood 'gan Thy dread career!

O, Mighty One! Give Answer! I would search  
The secret shadow of Thy haunting pain!  
Why dost Thou raise, eternally, to God  
Thy weary voice in hoarse lament that Thou wert  
made?

Alas! I know not — yet I know *my heart*  
Doth yearn toward Thee, in Thy great agony;  
For through its core the same strong pulse doth  
beat,

With an 'all-ebbless tide, like unto Thine!  
And I have sought Thee in Thy tender moods,  
But Thou vouchsaf'd no answer! Worshipping,  
Along Thy pebb'l'd shore I've paced the Night,  
Communing with Thy Spirit till the Dawn,  
Then, weary, sought my couch to dream of Thee,  
And come again to question and adore!

Oft, gazing on Thee 'neath the Crescent beam  
Whose golden splendour kiss'd the silver sands  
Beneath my feet, my Soul hath risen  
From her Mask of Clay, and up the broad'ning vista  
Ta'en her flight, and there hath seen and question'd  
That which *other* men perchance may *dream*,  
But none may *know*! Then, to my list'ning Soul,  
Thy moan seem'd sweetest music, and the melody  
Of Thy deep monotone — an awful requiem, —  
Swell'd solemnly 'bove Thy still-sleeping host!

O, Mighty One! Give Answer! I would search  
The secret shadow of Thy haunting pain!  
Upon Thy shore I've mark'd Thee cast, contempt-  
uously,  
Thy warlike spoils, like as a wayward child

That wearied of its romp and boist'rous play,  
Doth, sated, quit its toys to sigh for new!  
Weird toys are Thine, that freeze, at its warm spring,  
The genial flow in hearts of them that gaze! —  
Old, riven planks, pierc'd by the sleepless worm —  
Truss'd through by rusted spike, or grim, red bolt,  
And garnish'd deep with fringe of waving moss  
To which cling living shells that feast on Death! —  
A half-effac'd inscription like a name —  
The sole survivor of some stately ship  
Whose sunken prow sleeps in Thy crystal tomb!  
O, silent Tragedy! O, Actors hush'd in Death!  
This, thy lone witness, comes from thee afar,  
An hundred leagues, to tell thou art no more!

Ah! who shall pierce Thy sunless vault below? —



Who gaze upon that phantom barque which lies,  
Slow-rotting, 'neath Thy dead and pulseless tide? —  
The bony Steersman — spitted on his wheel —  
A ghastly spectre, peering through the gloom  
With hollow orbs, as if *it* would divine  
The dreadful Aspect of Eternity?

Upon Thy boundless plain of shining sands  
Bloom rare sea-plants, and Children of the Deep —  
The crimson coral, which, with graceful spray,  
Doth mock her frailer sisters born of Earth!  
But, fairer far, those sweet and gentle flowers  
That in Thy hauntless wilds unheeded blow  
With wanton fragrance, save the Merman King  
Doth seek, with them, his true-love's troth to plight!

Heap'd in Thy caves lies hid the glittering store  
Bold men have wrested from the Womb of Earth;  
But Thou did'st gripe it in Thine amorous clutch,<sup>1</sup>  
Who shall disputeless hoard, forevermore!

Thou art eternal, and shalt proudly roll  
When millions be departed, yet unborn;—  
Man's day a flower that at Life's Ev'ning fades,  
To moulder 'neath the mute and senseless stone!  
But, ah! the *Spirit*, striving in my breast,  
Doth *there* Thy vaunted sov'reignty deny—  
My Soul shall seek afar her "captain, Christ," (1)  
When Thou reced'st to Thy remotest shore!

Yet do I love Thee, and my deep delight

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(1) *Shakespeare's "King Richard II.," Act IV; Scene I.*

Is heark'ning to Thine angry surges' call,—  
Thy rush of fury 'gainst the jagg'd, black rocks,—  
The mutter'd thunder of Thy baffl'd roar!

Farewell! thou Marvel of an unseen God!  
Farewell! O, Herald of perpetual Song!  
Farewell! thou Burthen of ten thousand Psalms!  
Grand Anthem of Jehovah! Give Farewell!

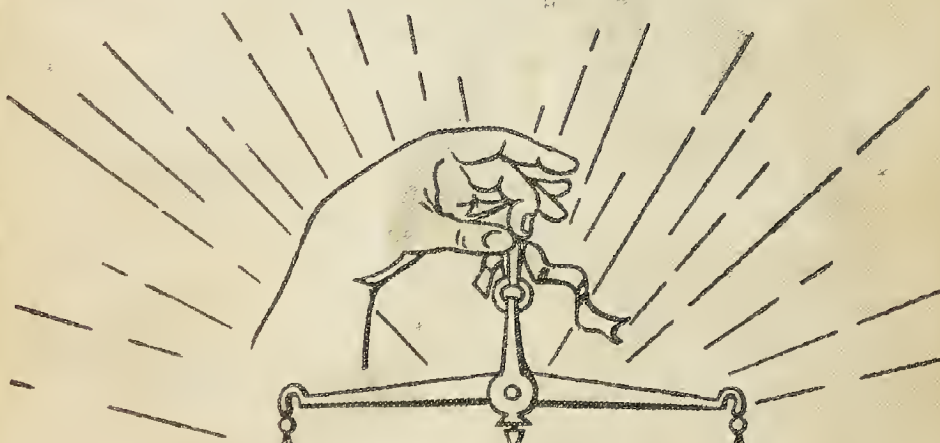












*"Manfred"*