

THE  
VISION  
OF  
COLUMBUS;

A POEM IN NINE BOOKS.

BY JOEL BARLOW, ESQUIRE.

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M.DCC.LXXXVII.

TO  
HIS MOST CHRISTIAN MAJESTY,  
**LOUIS THE SIXTEENTH,**  
KING OF FRANCE AND NAVARRE.

SIRE,

**I**N recounting the numerous blessings which have arisen to mankind from the discovery of America, the mind dwells with particular pleasure and gratitude upon those Characters, from whose hands these blessings have immediately flowed. That change in the political face of Europe, that liberality of sentiment, that enlargement of commercial, military and philosophical knowledge, which contrast the present with the fifteenth century, are but so many consequences of this great event ; an event which laid open all parts of the earth to the range of the



## DEDICATION.

liberal mind. The illustrious line of your royal Ancestors have been conspicuous in seizing those advantages and diffusing their happy effects. The great Father of the House of Bourbon will be held in the highest veneration, till his favourite political system shall be realized among the nations of Europe, and extended to all mankind. But it was left to his more glorious Descendant, to accelerate the progress of society, by disregarding the temporary interests and local policies of other Monarchs, reaching the hand of beneficence to another hemisphere, and raising an infant empire, in a few years, to a degree of importance, which several ages were scarcely thought sufficient to produce.

THIS is the sublime of humanity, to feel for future ages and distant nations ; to act those things, as a Monarch, which another can only contemplate as a Philosopher, or image in the flights of poetry. America acknowledges her obligations to the Guardian of her rights ; mankind, who survey your conduct, and posterity, for whom you act, will see that the tribute of gratitude is paid.

If to patronize the Arts can add to the praise of these more glorious actions, your Majesty's fame in this respect will be ever sacred ; as there are none, who can feel the subject so strongly as those who

## DEDICATION.

are the particular objects of your royal condescension.

THE following work, which may be considered in part, as the offspring of those reflections which your Majesty's conduct has taught me to make, possesses one advantage scarcely to be expected in a Poem written in a foreign language. Your Majesty's permission, that the unfortunate Columbus may once more enjoy the protection of a royal benefactor, has added a new obligation to those I before felt—in common with a grateful country. It is the policy of wise Princes to encourage the liberal arts among their subjects ; and, as the human race are the objects of your extended administration, they may all in some measure claim the privilege of subjects, in seeking your literary as well as political protection.

WITH the deepest sense of your Majesty's royal munificence to my country, and gracious condescension to myself, I have the honour to be,

SIRE,

YOUR MAJESTY'S

Most humble and

Most devoted Servant,

JOEL BARLOW.



## INTRODUCTION.

**E**VERY circumstance relating to the discovery and settlement of America, is an interesting object of enquiry. Yet it is presumed, from the present state of literature in this country, that many persons, who might be entertained with an American production of this kind, are but slightly acquainted with the life and character of that great man, whose extraordinary genius led him to the discovery of the continent, and whose singular sufferings ought to excite the indignation of the world.

THE Spanish historians, who treat of the discovery and settlement of South-America, are very little known in the United States; and Doctor Robertson's history of that country, which, as is usual in the works of that judicious writer, contains all that is valuable on the subject, is not yet reprinted in America, and therefore cannot be supposed to be in the hands of American readers in general: and perhaps no other writer in the English language has given a sufficient account of the life of Columbus to enable them to understand many of the necessary allusions in the following Poem.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS was born in the republic of Genoa about the year 1447; at a time when the navigation of Europe was scarcely extended beyond the limits of the Mediterranean. The mariner's compass had been invented and in common use for more than a century; yet with the help of this



sure guide, prompted by the most ardent spirit of discovery, and encouraged by the patronage of princes, the mariners of those days rarely ventured from the sight of land. They acquired great applause by sailing along the coast of Africa and discovering some of the neighbouring islands; and after pushing their researches with the greatest industry and perseverance for more than half a century, the Portuguese, who were the most fortunate and enterprising, extended their discoveries southward no farther than the equator.

THE rich commodities of the East had for several ages been brought into Europe by the way of the Red Sea and the Mediterranean; and it had now become the object of the Portuguese to find a passage to India, by sailing round the southern extremity of Africa and then taking an eastern course. This great object engaged the general attention of mankind, and drew into the Portuguese service adventurers from every maritime nation in Europe. Every year added to their experience in navigation and seemed to promise a reward to their industry. The prospect however of arriving at the Indies was extremely distant; fifty years perseverance in the same track, had brought them only to the equator, and it was probable that as many more would elapse before they could accomplish their purpose. But Columbus, by an uncommon exertion of genius, formed a design no less astonishing to the age in which he lived, than beneficial to posterity. This design was to sail to India by taking a western direction. By the accounts of travellers who had visited India, that country seemed almost without limits on the east; and by attending to the spherical figure of the earth, Columbus drew this conclusion, that the Atlantic ocean must be bounded on the west either by India itself, or by some great continent not far distant from it.

THIS extraordinary man, who was now about twenty-seven years of age, appears to have united in his character every trait, and to have possessed every talent, requisite to form and execute the greatest enterprises. He was early educated in all the useful sciences that were taught in that day. He had made great proficiency in geography, astronomy and drawing, as they were necessary to his favourite pursuit of navigation. He had now been a number of years in the service of the Portuguese, and had acquired all the experience that their voyages and discoveries could afford. His courage and perseverance had been put to the severest test, and the exercise of every amiable and heroic virtue rendered him universally known and respected. He had married a Portuguese lady by whom he had two sons, Diego and Ferdinand; the younger of whom is the historian of his life.

SUCH was the situation of Columbus, when he formed and thoroughly digested a plan, which, in its operation and consequences, unfolded to the view of mankind one half of the globe, diffused wealth and dignity over the other, and extended commerce and civilization through the whole. To corroborate the theory which he had formed of the existence of a western continent, his discerning mind, which always knew the application of every circumstance that fell in his way, had observed several facts which by others would have passed unnoticed. In his voyages to the African islands he had found, floating ashore after a long western storm, pieces of wood, carved in a curious manner, canes of a size unknown in that quarter of the world, and human bodies with very singular features. Fully confirmed in the opinion that a considerable portion of the earth was still undiscovered, his genius was too vigorous and persevering to suffer an idea of this importance to rest merely in specula-



tion, as it had done in the minds of Plato and Seneca, who appear to have had conjectures of a similar nature. He determined therefore to bring his favourite theory to the test of actual experiment. But an object of that magnitude required the patronage of a Prince; and a design so extraordinary met with all the obstructions, delays and disappointments, which an age of superstition could invent, and which personal jealousy and malice could magnify and encourage. Happily for mankind, in this instance, a genius, capable of devising the greatest undertakings, associated in itself a degree of patience and enterprize, modesty and confidence, which rendered him superior, not only to these misfortunes, but to all the future calamities of his life. Prompted by the most ardent enthusiasm to be the discoverer of new continents, and fully sensible of the advantages that would result to mankind from such discoveries, he had the mortification to waste away eighteen years of his life, after his system was well established in his own mind, before he could obtain the means of executing his designs. The greatest part of this period was spent in successive and fruitless solicitations, at Genoa, Portugal and Spain. As a duty to his native country, he made his first proposal to the Senate of Genoa; where it was soon rejected. Conscious of the truth of his theory, and of his own abilities to execute his design, he retired without dejection from a body of men who were incapable of forming any just ideas upon the subject; and applied with fresh confidence to John the second, King of Portugal, who had distinguished himself as the great patron of navigation, and in whose service Columbus had acquired a reputation which entitled him and his project to general confidence and approbation. But here he suffered an insult much greater than a direct refusal. After referring the examination of his scheme to the council who had the direc-

tion of naval affairs, and drawing from him his general ideas of the length of the voyage and the course he meant to take, that great monarch had the meanness to conspire with this council to rob Columbus of the glory and advantage he expected to derive from his undertaking. While Columbus was amused with this negotiation, in hopes of having his scheme adopted and patronized, a vessel was secretly dispatched, by order of the king, to make the intended discovery. Want of skill and perseverance in the pilot rendered the plot unsuccessful; and Columbus, on discovering the treachery, retired with an ingenuous indignation from a court capable of such duplicity.

HAVING now performed what was due to the country that gave him birth and to the one that had adopted him as a subject, he was at liberty to court the patronage of any prince who should have the wisdom and justice to accept his proposals. He had communicated his ideas to his brother Bartholomew, whom he sent to England to negotiate with Henry seventh; at the same time that he went himself into Spain to apply in person to Ferdinand and Isabella, who governed the united kingdoms of Aragon and Castile. The circumstances of his brother's application in England, which appears to have been unsuccessful, is not to my purpose to relate; and the limits prescribed to this introduction will prevent the detail of all the particulars relating to his own negociation in Spain. In this negociation Columbus spent eight years, in the various agitations of suspense, expectation and disappointment; till, at length his scheme was adopted by Isabella, who undertook, as Queen of Castile, to destroy the expences of the expedition; and declared herself, ever after, the friend and patron of the hero who projected it.



COLUMBUS, who, during all his ill success in the negotiation, never abated any thing of the honours and emoluments which he expected to acquire in the expedition, obtained from Ferdinand and Isabella a full stipulation of every article contained in his first proposals. He was constituted high Admiral and Viceroy of all the Seas, Islands and Continents which he should discover; with power to receive one tenth of the profits arising from their productions and commerce. These offices and emoluments were to be hereditary in his family.

THESE articles being adjusted, the preparations for the voyage were brought forward with rapidity; but they were by no means adequate to the importance of the expedition. Three small vessels, scarcely sufficient in size to be employed in the coasting business, were appointed to traverse the vast Atlantic; and to encounter the storms and currents that might be expected in so lengthy a voyage, through distant and unknown seas. These vessels, as might be expected in the infancy of navigation, were ill constructed, in a poor condition, and manned by seamen unaccustomed to distant voyages. But the tedious length of time which Columbus had spent in solicitation and suspense, and the prospect of being able soon to obtain the object of his wishes, induced him to overlook what he could not easily remedy, and led him to disregard those circumstances which would have intimidated any other mind. He accordingly equipped his small squadron with as much expedition as possible, manned with ninety men and victualled for one year. With these, on the 3d of August 1492, amidst a vast croud of anxious spectators, he set sail on an enterprise, which, if we consider the ill condition of his ships, the inexperience of his sailors, the length and

uncertainty of his voyage, and the consequences that flowed from it, was the most daring and important that ever was undertaken. He touched at some of the Portuguese settlements in the Canary Isles; where, although he had had but a few days run, he found his vessels needed refitting. He soon made the necessary repairs, and took his departure from the westernmost Islands that had hitherto been discovered. Here he left the former track of navigation and steered his course due west.

NOT many days after he had been at sea, he began to experience a new scene of difficulty. The sailors now began to contemplate the dangers and uncertain issue of a voyage, the nature and length of which was left entirely open to conjecture. Besides the fickleness and timidity natural to men unaccustomed to the discipline of a seafaring life, several circumstances contributed to inspire an obstinate and mutinous disposition, which required the most consummate art as well as fortitude in the admiral to controul. Having been three weeks at sea, and experienced the uniform course of the trade winds, which always blow in a western direction, they contended that, should they continue the same course for a longer period, the same winds would never permit them to return to Spain. The magnetic needle began to vary its direction. This being the first time that phenomenon was ever discovered, it was viewed by the sailors with astonishment, and considered as an indication that nature itself had changed her course, and that Providence was determined to punish their audacity, in venturing so far beyond the ordinary bounds of man. They declared that the commands of their sovereign had been fully obeyed, in their proceeding so many days in the same direction, and so far surpassing the attempts of all for-



mer navigators, in quest of new discoveries. Every talent, requisite for governing, soothing and tempering the passions of men, is conspicuous in the conduct of Columbus on this occasion. The dignity and affability of his manners, his surprising knowledge and experience in naval affairs, his unwearied and minute attention to the duties of his command gave him a complete ascendant over the minds of his men, and inspired that degree of confidence which would have maintained his authority in almost any possible circumstances. But here, from the nature of the undertaking, every man had leisure to feed his imagination with all the gloominess and uncertainty of the prospect. They found, every day, that the same steady gales carried them with great rapidity from their native country, and indeed from all countries of which they had any knowledge. Notwithstanding all the variety of management with which Columbus addressed himself to their passions, sometimes by soothing them with the prognostics of discovering land, sometimes by flattering their ambition and feasting their avarice with the glory and wealth they would acquire from discovering those rich countries beyond the Atlantic, and sometimes by threatening them with the displeasure of their sovereign, should their timidity and disobedience defeat so great an object, their uneasiness still increased. From secret whisperings, it arose to open mutiny and dangerous conspiracy. At length they determined to rid themselves of the remonstrances of Columbus, by throwing him into the sea. The infection spread from ship to ship, and involved Officers as well as common sailors. They finally lost all sense of subordination, and addressed their commander in an insolent manner, demanding to be conducted immediately back to Spain; or, they assured him, they would seek their own safety by taking away his life.

Columbus, whose sagacity and penetration had discovered every symptom of the disorder, was prepared for this last stage of it, and was sufficiently apprized of the danger that awaited him. He found it vain to contend with passions he could no longer controul. He therefore proposed that they should obey his orders for three days longer; and, should they not discover land in that time, he would then direct his course for Spain. They complied with his proposal; and, happily for mankind, in three days they discovered Land. This was a small Island, to which Columbus gave the name of San Salvador. Their first interview with the natives was a scene of amusement and compassion on the one part, and of astonishment and adoration on the other. The natives were entirely naked, simple and timorous, and they viewed the Spaniards as a superior order of beings, descended from the Sun, which, in that Island and in most parts of America, was worshiped as a Deity. By this it was easy for Columbus to perceive the line of conduct proper to be observed toward that simple and inoffensive people. Had his companions and successors, of the Spanish nation possessed the wisdom and humanity of that great discoverer, the benevolent mind would feel no sensations, of regret, in contemplating the extensive advantages arising to mankind from the discovery of America.

In this voyage, Columbus discovered the Islands of Cuba and Hispaniola; on the latter of which, he erected a small fort, and having left a garrison of thirty-eight men, under the command of an Officer by the name of Arada, he set sail for Spain. Returning across the Atlantic, he was overtaken by a violent storm, which lasted several days and increased to such a degree, as baffled all his naval skill and threatened



immediate destruction. In this situation, when all were in a state of despair, and it was expected that every sea would swallow up the crazy vessel, he manifested a serenity and presence of mind, perhaps never equalled in cases of like extremity. He wrote a short account of his voyage and of the discoveries he had made, wrapped it in an oiled cloth, enclosed it in a cake of wax, put it into an empty cask and threw it overboard; in hopes that some accident might preserve a deposit of so much importance to the world.

THE storm however abated, and he at length arrived in Spain; after having been driven by stress of weather into the Port of Lisbon, where he had opportunity in an interview with the King of Portugal, to prove the truth of his system by arguments more convincing than those he had before advanced, in the character of an humble and unsuccessful suitor. He was received every where in Spain with Royal honours, his family was ennobled, and his former stipulation respecting his offices and emoluments was ratified in the most solemn manner, by Ferdinand and Isabella; while all Europe resounded his praises and reciprocated their joy and congratulations on the discovery of a new world.

THE immediate consequence of this was a second voyage; in which Columbus took charge of a Squadron of seventeen Ships of considerable burthen. Volunteers of all ranks and conditions solicited to be employed in this expedition. He carried over fifteen hundred persons, together with all the necessities for establishing a Colony and extending his discoveries. In this voyage he explored most of the West-India Islands; but, on his arrival at Hispaniola, he found the garrison he had left there had been total-

ly destroyed by the natives, and the fort demolished. He however proceeded in the planting of his colony; and, by his prudent and humane conduct towards the natives, he effectually established the Spanish authority in that Island. But while he was thus laying the foundation of their future grandeur in South America, some discontented persons, who had returned from the colony to Spain, together with his former enemies in that Kingdom, conspired to accomplish his ruin.

THEY represented his conduct in such a light at court, as to create uneasiness and distrust in the jealous mind of Ferdinand, and made it necessary for Columbus again to return to Spain, in order to counteract their machinations, and to obtain such farther supplies as were necessary to his great political and benevolent purposes. On his arriving at court, and stating with his usual dignity and confidence the whole history of his transactions abroad, every thing wore a favourable appearance. He was received with usual honours, and again solicited to take charge of another squadron, to carry out farther supplies, to pursue his discoveries, and in every respect to use his discretion in extending the Spanish Empire in the new World. In this third voyage he discovered the Continent of America at the mouth of the river Oronoque. He rectified many disorders in his government of Hispaniola which had happened in his absence; and every thing was going on in a prosperous train, when an event was announced to him, which completed his own ruin, and gave a fatal turn to the Spanish policy and conduct in America. This was the arrival of Francis de Bovadilla, with a commission to supersede Columbus in his government; and with power to arraign him as a criminal, and to judge of his former administration.



It seems that by this time the enemies of Columbus, despairing to complete his overthrow by groundless insinuations of mal-conduct, had taken the more effectual method of exciting the jealousy of their Sovereigns. From the promising samples of Gold and other valuable commodities brought from America, they took occasion to represent to the King and Queen, that the prodigious wealth and extent of the countries he had discovered would soon throw such power into the hands of the Viceroy, that he would trample on the Royal Authority and bid defiance to the Spanish power. These arguments were well calculated for the cold and suspicious temper of Ferdinand, and they must have had some effect upon the mind of Isabella. The consequence was the appointment of Bovadilla, who had been the inveterate enemy of Columbus, to take the government from his hands. This first tyrant of the Spanish nation in America began his administration by ordering Columbus to be put in chains on board a ship, and sending him prisoner to Spain. By relaxing all discipline he introduced disorder and licentiousness throughout the colony. He subjected the unhappy natives to a most miserable servitude, and apportioned them out in large numbers among his adherents. Under this severe treatment perished in a short time many thousands of those innocent people.

COLUMBUS was carried in his fetters to the Spanish court, where the King and Queen either feigned or felt a sufficient regret at the conduct of Bovadilla towards this illustrious prisoner. He was not only released from confinement, but treated with all imaginable respect. But, although the king endeavoured to expiate the offence by censuring and recalling Bovadilla, yet we may judge of his sincerity from his appointing Nicholas de Ovando, another bitter enemy of Columbus, to succeed in the government, and from

his ever after refusing to reinstate Columbus, or to fulfil any of the conditions on which the discoveries were undertaken. After two years solicitation for this or some other employment, he at length obtained a squadron of four small vessels to attempt new discoveries. He now set out, with the ardour and enthusiasm of a young adventurer, in quest of what was always his favourite object, a passage into the South Sea, by which he might sail to India. He touched at Hispaniola, where Ovando, the governor, refused him admittance on shore even to take shelter during a hurricane, the prognostics of which his experience had taught him to discern. By putting into a small creek, he rode out the storm, and then bore away for the continent. Several months, in the most boisterous season of the year, he spent in exploring the coast round the gulph of Mexico, in hopes of finding the intended navigation to India. At length he was shipwrecked, and driven ashore on the Island of Jamaica.

HIS cup of calamities seemed now completely full. He was cast upon an island of savages, without provisions, without any vessel, and thirty leagues from any Spanish settlement. But the greatest providential misfortunes are capable of being imbibed by the insults of our fellow creatures. A few of his hardy companions generously offered, in two Indian canoes, to attempt a voyage to Hispaniola, in hopes of obtaining a vessel for the relief of the unhappy crew. After suffering every extremity of danger and hardship, they arrived at the Spanish colony in ten days. Ovando, through personal malice and jealousy of Columbus, after having detained these messengers eight months, dispatched a vessel to Jamaica, in order to spy out the condition of Columbus and his crew; with positive instructions to the Captain not to afford them any relief. This order was punctually executed. The Captain approached the



shore, delivered a letter of empty compliment from Ovando to the Admiral, received his answer and returned. About four months afterwards a vessel came to their relief; and Columbus, worn out with fatigues and broken with misfortunes, returned for the last time to Spain. Here a new distress awaited him, which he considered as one of the greatest he had suffered, in his whole life. This was the death of Queen Isabella, his last and greatest friend.

He did not suddenly abandon himself to despair. He called upon the gratitude and justice of the King; and, in terms of dignity, demanded the fulfilment of his former contract. Notwithstanding his age and infirmities, he even solicited to be farther employed in extending the career of discovery, without a prospect of any other reward but the consciousness of doing good to mankind. But Ferdinand, cold, ungrateful and timid, dared not to comply with a single proposal of this kind, lest he should encrease his own obligations to a man, whose services he thought it dangerous to reward. He therefore delayed and avoided any decision on these subjects, in hopes that the declining health of Columbus would soon rid the court of the remonstrances of a man, whose extraordinary merit was, in their opinion, a sufficient occasion of destroying him. In this they were not disappointed. Columbus languished a short time, and gladly resigned a life, which had been worn out in the most essential services perhaps that were ever rendered, by any human character, to an ungrateful world.

SOMETIME in this gloomy interval, before his death, the Vision is supposed to have been presented to him; in order to satisfy his benevolent mind, by unfolding to him the importance of his discoveries, in their extensive influence upon the interest and happiness of mankind, in the progress of society.

THE Author has indulged a small anachronism in the opening of the Poem, for the sake of grouping the misfortunes of the hero; as the time of his actual imprisonment was previous to his last voyage and to the death of Isabella.

THE Author, at first, formed an idea of attempting a regular Epic Poem, on the discovery of America. But on examining the nature of that event, he found that the most brilliant subjects incident to such a plan would arise from the consequences of the discovery, and must be represented in vision. Indeed to have made it a patriotic Poem, by extending the subject to the settlement and revolutions of North America and their probable effect upon the future progress of society at large, would have protracted the vision to such a degree as to render it disproportionate to the rest of the work. To avoid an absurdity of this kind, which he supposed the critics would not pardon, he rejected the idea of a regular Epic form, and has confined his plan to the train of events which might be represented to the hero in vision. This form he considers as the best that the nature of the subject would admit; and the regularity of the parts will appear by observing, that there is a single poetical design constantly kept in view, which is to gratify and sooth the desponding mind of the hero: It being the greatest possible reward of his services, and the only one that his situation would permit him to enjoy, to convince him that his labours had not been bestowed in vain, and that he was the author of such extensive happiness to the human race.



## A R G U M E N T.

*Condition and soliloquy of Columbus. Appearance and speech of the Angel. They ascend the Mount of Vision. Continent of America draws into view, and is described by the mountains, rivers, lakes, soil, temperature and some of the natural productions.*

## THE VISION OF COLUMBUS.

### B O O K I.

LONG had the Sage, the first who dared to brave  
The unknown dangers of the western wave,  
Who taught mankind where future empires lay  
In these fair confines of descending day,  
With cares o'erwhelm'd, in life's distressing gloom,  
Wish'd from a thankless world a peaceful tomb;  
While kings and nations, envious of his name,  
Enjoy'd his toils and triumph'd o'er his fame,  
And gave the chief, from promised empire hurl'd,  
Chains for a crown, a prison for a world.  
Now night and silence held their lonely reign,  
The half-orb'd moon declining to the main;  
Descending clouds, o'er varying ether driven,  
Obscured the stars and shut the eye from heaven;  
Cold mists through opening grates the cell invade,  
And deathlike terrors haunt the midnight shade;  
When from a visionary, short repose,  
That raised new cares and temper'd keener woes,  
Columbus woke, and to the walls address'd  
The deep-felt sorrows of his manly breast.

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Here lies the purchase, here the wretched spoil,  
 Of painful years and persevering toil :  
 For these dread walks, this hideous haunt of pain,  
 I traced new regions o'er the pathless main,  
 Dared all the dangers of the dreary wave,  
 Hung o'er its clefts and topp'd the surging grave,  
 Saw billowy seas, in swelling mountains roll,  
 And bursting thunders rock the reddening pole,  
 Death rear his front in every dreadful form,  
 Gape from beneath and blacken in the storm ;  
 Till, tost far onward to the skirts of day,  
 Where milder suns dispens'd a smiling ray,  
 Through brighter skies my happier sails descri'd  
 The golden banks that bound the western tide,  
 And gave the admiring world that bounteous shore  
 Their wealth to nations and to kings their power.

Oh land of transport ! dear, delusive coast,  
 To these fond, aged eyes forever lost !  
 No more thy gladdening vales I travel o'er,  
 For me thy mountains rear the head no more,  
 For me thy rocks no sparkling gems unfold,  
 Or streams luxuriant wear their paths in gold ;  
 From realms of promised peace forever borne,  
 I hail dread anguish, and in secret mourn.

But dangers past, fair climes explored in vain,  
 And foes triumphant shew but half my pain.  
 Dissembling friends, each earlier joy who gave,  
 And fired my youth the storms of fate to brave,

Swarm'd in the sunshine of my happier days,  
 Pursued the fortune and partook the praise,  
 Bore in my doubtful cause a twofold part,  
 The garb of friendship and the viper's heart,  
 Pass my loath'd cell with smiles of sour disdain,  
 Insult my woes and triumph in my pain.

One gentle guardian Heaven indulgent gave,  
 And now that guardian slumbers in the grave.  
 Hear from above, thou dear departed shade,  
 As once my joys, my present sorrows aid,  
 Burst my full heart, afford that last relief,  
 Breathe back my sighs and reinspire my grief ;  
 Still in my fight thy royal form appears,  
 Reproves my silence and demands my tears.  
 On that blest hour my soul delights to dwell,  
 When thy protection bade the canvass swell,  
 When kings and courtiers found their factions vain,  
 Blind Superstition shrunk beneath her chain,  
 The sun's glad beam led on the circling way,  
 And isles rose beauteous in the western day.  
 But o'er those silvery shores, that fair domain,  
 What crouds of tyrants fix their horrid reign !  
 Again fair Freedom seeks her kindred skies,  
 Truth leaves the world, and Isabella dies.

Oh, lend thy friendly shroud to veil my fight,  
 That these pain'd eyes may dread no more the light,  
 These welcome shades conclude my instant doom,  
 And this drear mansion moulder to a tomb.



Thus mourn'd the hapless chief; a thundering sound  
 Roll'd round the shuddering walls and shook the  
 O'er all the dome, where solemn arches bend, [ground;  
 The roofs unfold and streams of light descend;  
 The growing splendor fill'd the astonish'd room,  
 And gales ethereal breathed a glad perfume;  
 Mild in the midst a radiant seraph shone,  
 Robed in the vestments of the rising sun;  
 Tall rose his stature, youth's primeval grace  
 Moved o'er his limbs and brighten'd in his face,  
 His closing wings, in golden plumage drest,  
 With gentle sweep came folding o'er his breast,  
 His locks in rolling ringlets glittering hung,  
 And sounds melodious moved his heavenly tongue.

Rise, trembling Chief, to scenes of rapture, rise,  
 This voice awaits thee from the approving skies;  
 Thy just complaints, in heavenly audience known,  
 Call mild compassion from the indulgent throne;  
 Let grief no more awake the piteous strain,  
 Nor think thy piety or toils are vain.  
 Tho' faithless men thy injured worth despise,  
 Depress all virtue and insult the skies,  
 Yet look thro' nature, Heaven's own conduct trace,  
 What power divine sustains the unthankful race!  
 From that great Source, that life-inspiring Soul,  
 Suns drew their light and systems learn'd to roll,  
 Time walk'd the silent round, and life began,  
 And God's fair image stamp'd the mind of man.

Down the long vale, where rolling years descend,  
 To thy own days, behold his care extend;  
 From one eternal Spring, what love proceeds!  
 Smiles in the seraph, in the Saviour bleeds,  
 Shines through all worlds, that fill the bounds of space,  
 And lives immortal in thy favour'd race.  
 Yet no return the almighty Power can know,  
 From earth to heaven no just reward can flow,  
 Men spread their wants, the all-bounteous hand sup-  
 And gives the joys that mortals dare despise. [plies,  
 In these dark vales where blinded faction sways,  
 Wealth pride and conquest claim the palm of praise,  
 Aw'd into slaves, while groping millions groan,  
 And blood-stain'd steps lead upwards to a throne.

Far other wreaths thy virtuous temples claim,  
 Far nobler honours build thy sacred name,  
 Thine be the joys the immortal mind that grace  
 Pleas'd with the toils, that blest thy kindred race.  
 Now raise thy ravish'd soul to scenes more bright,  
 The glorious fruits ascending on thy sight;  
 For, wing'd with speed, from brighter worlds I came,  
 To sooth thy grief and show thy distant fame.

As that great Seer, whose animating rod  
 Taught Israel's sons the wonder-working God,  
 Who led, thro' dreary wastes, the murmuring band  
 To the fair confines of the promised land,  
 Oppress'd with years, from Pisgah's beauteous height,  
 O'er boundless regions cast the raptured sight;



The joys of unborn nations warm'd his breast,  
 Repaid his toils and sooth'd his soul to rest ;  
 Thus, o'er thy subject wave, shalt thou behold  
 Far happier realms their future charms unfold,  
 In nobler pomp another Pisgah rise,  
 Beneath whose foot thine own Canaan lies ;  
 There, rapt in vision, hail the distant clime,  
 And taste the blessings of remotest time.

The Seraph spoke ; and now before them lay  
 (The doors unbarr'd) a steep ascending way,  
 That, through disparting shades, arose on high,  
 Reach'd o'er the hills and lengthen'd up the sky,  
 Oped a fair summit, graced with rising flowers,  
 Sweet odours breathing through celestial bowers,  
 O'er proud Hispanian spires, it looks sublime,  
 Subjects the Alps and levels all the clime.  
 Led by the Power, the hero gain'd the height,  
 A touch from heaven sublimed his mortal sight,  
 And, calm beneath them, flow'd the western main,  
 Far stretch'd, immense, a sky-encircled plain ;  
 No sail, no isle, no cloud invests the bound,  
 Nor billowy surge disturbs the unvaried round ;  
 Till, deep in distant heavens, the sun's dim ray  
 Topp'd unknown cliffs and call'd them up to day ;  
 Slow glimmering into sight wide regions drew,  
 And rose and brighten'd on the expanding view ;  
 Fair sweep the waves, the lessening ocean smiles,  
 And breathes the fragrance of a thousand isles ;

Near and more near the long-drawn coasts arise,  
 Bays stretch their arms and mountains lift the skies,  
 The lakes, unfolding, point the streams their way,  
 The plains the hills their lengthening skirts display,  
 The vales draw forth, high walk the approaching  
 And all the majesty of nature moves. [groves,

O'er the wild climes his eyes delighted rove,  
 Where lands extend and glittering waters move ;  
 He saw through central realms, the winding shore  
 Spread the deep gulph, his sail had traced before,  
 The rocky isthmus meet the raging tide,  
 Join distant lands and neighbouring seas divide,  
 On either side the shores unbounded bend,  
 Push wide their waves and to the poles ascend ;  
 While two fair continents united rise,  
 Broad as the main and lengthen'd with the skies.

Such views around them spread, when thus the Guide,  
 Here bounteous earth displays her noblest pride,  
 Ages unborn shall bless the happy day,  
 When thy bold streamers steer'd the trackless way,  
 O'er these delightful realms thy sons shall tread,  
 And following millions trace the path you led.  
 Behold yon isles, where first the flag, unfurl'd,  
 Waved peaceful triumph o'er the new-found world,  
 Where, aw'd to silence, savage bands gave place,  
 And hail'd with joy the sun-descended race.

See there the banks that purest waters lave,  
 Swift Oronoque rolls back the ocean's wave,