

While science rises, freed from pedant pride,  
Of truth the standard and of faith the guide.

The passions wild, that sway the changing mind,  
The reasoning powers, her watchful guides design'd,  
Each, unrestrain'd, alike subvert the plan,  
Mistlead the judgment and betray the man.  
Hence raging zeal, or sceptic scorn prevails,  
And arms decide the faith, where wisdom fails.  
Of human passions, one above the rest,  
Fear, love, or envy, rules in every breast ;  
And, while it varies with the changing clime,  
Now stoops to earth, now lifts the soul sublime,  
Forms local creeds of superstitious lore,  
Creates the God, and bids the world adore.

Lo ! at the Lama's feet, as lord of all,  
Age, following age, in dumb devotion fall !  
The youthful God, mid suppliant kings enshrined,  
Dispensing fate and ruling half mankind,  
Sits, with contorted limbs, a silent slave,  
An early victim of a secret grave.  
And, where the mosk's dim arches bend on high,  
See the dead prophet mount the mimic sky ;  
While pilgrim hosts, o'er trackless deserts come,  
Croud the deep shrine, and worship round his tomb.  
See Memphian altars reek with human gore,  
Gods hiss from caverns, or in cages roar ;  
Nile pours from heaven a tutulary flood,  
And vales produce the vegetable God.

Two rival Powers the Magian faith inspire,  
The fire of darkness and the source of fire :  
Evil and good, in these contending rise,  
And each, by turns, the sovereign of the skies.  
Sun, stars and planets round the earth behold  
Their fanes of marble and their shrines of gold ;  
The sea, the grove, the harvest and the vine  
Spring from their Gods, and claim a source divine ;  
While heroes, kings and sages of their times,  
Those Gods on earth, are Gods in happier climes ;  
Minos in judgment sits, and Jove in power,  
And Odin's friends are feasted still with gore.

Yet wisdom's eye with just contempt descries  
These rites absurd, and bids the world despise :  
Then reasoning powers o'er passion gain the sway,  
And shroud in deeper glooms the mental ray.  
See the proud sage, with philosophic eye,  
Rove thro' all climes, and trace the starry sky,  
The systems mark, their various laws pursue,  
The God still rising to his raptured view ;  
But what this God ? and what the great design,  
Why creatures live or worlds around him shine ?  
If all perfection dwelt in him alone,  
If power, he cries, and wisdom were his own,  
No pain, no guilt, no variance could annoy  
The realm of peace, the universe of joy.

Yet reason here with homeward ken, descries  
From jarring parts what dark disorders rise ;

From frost and fire what storms untemper'd rave !  
 What plagues, what earthquakes croud the gaping  
 Pain, toil and torture give the infant breath, [grave !  
 His life is misery and his portion death.  
 From moral ills a like destruction reigns,  
 War founds the trump, and slaughter dyes the plains;  
 While wrath divine proclaims a heavier doom,  
 And guilt, astonish'd, looks beyond the tomb.  
 Whence these unnumber'd causeless ills, he cries,  
 Could wisdom form them ? or could love devise ?  
 No love, no wisdom, no consistent plan,  
 No God in heaven, nor future life to man !

While thus, thro' nature's walks he soars on high,  
 Acquits all guilt, dispeoples all the sky,  
 Denies unseen existence, and believes  
 No form beyond what human sense perceives,  
 An anxious search impels the curious mind,  
 Its own bright essence and its powers to find.  
 From conscious thought his reasoning force he plies,  
 And deep in search the active soul descends ;  
 Yet sense and substance no relation claim,  
 That dupes the reason, this exists a name :  
 All matter, mind, sense, knowledge, pleasure, pain,  
 Seem the wild phantoms of the vulgar brain ;  
 Reason, collected sits above the scheme,  
 Proves God and nature but an idle dream,  
 In one great learned doubt envelopes all,  
 And whelms it's own existence in the fall,

These wide extremes of passion and of pride  
 A while on earth thy changing race divide ;  
 That man may find his limits and his laws,  
 Where zeal inflames, or coward caution awes ;  
 And learn, by these, the happier course to steer,  
 Nor sink too low, nor mount beyond his sphere.  
 And soon, that happier course thy race shall gain,  
 And zealots rave, and sceptics doubt, in vain ;  
 While reason, sense and passion aid the soul,  
 Science her guide and truth the eternal goal.

First, his own powers the man, with care, describes,  
 What nature gives, and various art supplies ;  
 Rejects the ties of controversial rules,  
 The pride of names, the prejudice of schools ;  
 The sure foundation lays, on which to rise,  
 To look thro' earth and meditate the skies :  
 And finds some general laws in every breast,  
 Where ethics, faith and politics may rest.

Of human powers, the Senses always chief,  
 Produce instruction or enforce belief ;  
 Reason, as next in sway, the balance bears,  
 Receives their tidings, and with skill compares,  
 Restrains wild fancy, calms the impassion'd soul,  
 Illumes the judgment and refines the whole.  
 Sense, the great source of knowledge, ever just,  
 High in command, but faithful to its trust,  
 Aid of this life, and suited to its place,  
 Given to secure, but not exalt the race ;

Descries no God, nor claims superior birth,  
 And knows no life beyond the bounds of earth.  
 Reason, tho' taught by sense to range on high,  
 To trace the stars and measure all the sky ;  
 Tho' fancy, memory, foresight fill her train,  
 And o'er the beast she lifts the pride of man,  
 Yet, still to matter, form and space confined,  
 Or moral truths, or laws that rule mankind,  
 Could ne'er unaided pierce the mental gloom,  
 Explore new scenes beyond the closing tomb,  
 Reach with immortal hope the blest abode,  
 Or raise one thought of spirit, or of God.  
 Yet names of God, and powers of heavenly strain  
 All nations reverence and all tongues contain ;  
 Thro' every age the conscious mind perceives,  
 Reason pronounces and the sense believes.  
 What cause mysterious could the thought impart,  
 Not taught by nature nor acquired by art ?  
 It speaks of nature's God—no matter when  
 The name was caught, 'tis never lost by men ;  
 From clime to clime, from age to age it flies,  
 Sounds thro' the world and echos to the skies.  
 It proves him, self-reveal'd ; and all the plan  
 On this connexion rests of God and man.

Observe, in man, desires immortal given,  
 To range o'er earth and climb a happier heaven ;  
 Yet fear and conscious guilt his flight restrain,  
 His God offended, and his wishes vain :

The wrath divine impending on his breast  
 Precludes the hope of refuge and of rest ;  
 He seeks the fane, obtests the avenging skies,  
 Pours the full tear, and yields the sacrifice ;  
 Some foreign aid, some mediating grace,  
 He seeks to shield him from his Maker's face.

All forms of worship, that engage mankind,  
 In different climes to various Powers confined,  
 Require of suppliants some external aid,  
 Some victim offer'd, or some penance paid,  
 Some middle name, or reconciling plan,  
 To soothe the Godhead and redeem the man.  
 This thought, so wide diffused thro' all mankind,  
 Rose not from earth, or force of human mind ;  
 From heaven reveal'd, it shows some sov'reign scheme,  
 To link this nature with the Power supreme.  
 From guilt and pain to lift the soul on high,  
 And ope a happier scene, a world beyond the sky.  
 From clime to clime while rove the sage's eyes,  
 Books croud on books, and creeds on creeds arise.  
 Reason refined with liberal eye surveys  
 The opposing faiths and various modes of praise ;  
 Yet finds in all, what nature might approve,  
 A God of justice reconciled by love ;  
 With joy beholds the accordant scheme of heaven,  
 Dire vengeance sooth'd, a mediation given,  
 Man freed from pain, the stains of guilt removed,  
 To angels liken'd and by Heaven approved ;

Death bound in chains from his old empire hurl'd,  
And peace and pardon promised to the world.

Here ends the toilsome search ; in this may rest  
The doubts and fears that move the labouring breast ;  
These few fair truths, to common feeling plain,  
The work unfold, and every part sustain.

As, on an arch of stone, some temple stands,  
Raised to the clouds, and shines to distant lands ;  
The firm foundations, open to the sight,  
Croud, as it grows, and strengthen with the weight ;  
Thus, on the characters of God and man,  
By Heaven reveal'd in this conformant plan,  
The beauteous system rests ; and tho' awhile,  
Mad zeal o'erload it, and cold scorn revile,  
Stands, self-exalted, fill'd with native light,  
Firm to the faith, and growing on the sight.  
It speaks one simple, universal cause,  
Which time and space from one great centre draws ;  
Whence this unfolded, that began its flight,  
Worlds fill'd the skies, and nature roll'd in light ;  
Whither all beings tend ; and where, at last,  
Their progress, changes, imperfections, past,  
Matter shall turn to light, to pleasure pain,  
Strife end in union, angel form in man ;  
From stage to stage, from life to life, refined,  
All centre, whence they sprang, in one eternal Mind.

In this harmonious round, united rise,  
Power to create, and wisdom to devise ;

While Love supreme, before all action, stood,  
The first, the last, the chain of general good ;  
Through nature's range t' extend the sway divine,  
And heaven and earth in mild accordance join ;  
To one great moral Sense, all sense to draw,  
Strong as necessity, and fixt as law.

This branch of Godhead, thro' the system known,  
Image and brightness of the Eternal throne ;  
By whom all wisdom shines, all power extends,  
God stands reveal'd and Heaven with nature blends,  
Thro' earth and skies proclaim'd the indulgent plan,  
And spoke the law to Angel and to man ;  
In man's clear view display'd the ethereal road,  
To love the neighbour and adore the God.  
Yet, firm in justice as in mercy great,  
His sovereign power directs the scenes of fate,  
Wide o'er the world with guardian care extends,  
Curbs the proud nations and the weak defends ;  
That feeble faith and boasting scorn may prove  
The frown of vengeance, or the smile of love,  
Holds, in his own right hand, the dreadful doom  
Of woes unnumber'd here, and death beyond the tomb.

Fill'd with his fire, and guided by his hand,  
See the long train of white-robed prophets stand !  
Thro' opening heaven, their eyes sublimely roll,  
Peace on their tongue, and rapture in their soul ;  
The past records, the deeds of unborn time  
Flame in their page, and shine to every clime :

There, nations read their fate, and kings, to come,  
 Find, in the leaves, their glory or their doom.  
 There unborn Cyrus, preordain'd to fame,  
 On Babel's ruins, builds the Persian name ;  
 The chief of Macedon, the realm of Greece,  
 The Latian grandeur, and the Prince of peace,  
 In order ranged their song prophetic grace,  
 And time stands pointing to the destined place.

When now, with rolling years these deeds of fame  
 Rise into light and faith of nations claim.  
 Behold, on earth the promised Prince bestow'd !  
 The Virgin's offspring and the filial God ;  
 The appointed star its rapid course suspends,  
 The skies unfold, the mystic dove descends,  
 Glad songs attend him, heaven and earth combine,  
 To hail the new-born babe, and speak his birth divine.

See nature's laws suspended by his power !  
 Unclosing graves their slumbering dead restore,  
 Winds rise to waft him, storms, to lull him, sleep,  
 He walks the wave, and triumphs o'er the deep ;  
 He dies, he conquers death, ascends on high,  
 And rising saints attend him thro' the sky.

Thus, all the mystic scheme, design'd by heaven,  
 With clearest light to steadfast faith is given ;  
 Here the great moral Sense, the God conceal'd,  
 To human sense in earthly form reveal'd,  
 Suffers in open day, to teach mankind  
 His secret sufferings in the opposer's mind ;

To teach how pain and death and endless woes,  
 From wayward strife, and breach of order, rose ;  
 How each discordant wish, the soul that swells,  
 'Gainst human bliss and heavenly power rebels,  
 Weakens the chain of love, subverts the plan,  
 While nature drives the vengeance back on man.

Here all religion rests, and soon thy race  
 Her purest lights, by wisdom's eye shall trace.  
 Here the last flights of science shall ascend,  
 To look thro' heaven, and sense with reason blend ;  
 View the great source of love, that flows-abroad,  
 Spreads to all creatures, centres still in God,  
 Lives thro' the whole, from nature's compact springs,  
 Orders, reverses, fills the sum of things ;  
 In law constrains, in gospel reconciles,  
 In judgment frowns, in gentle mercy smiles,  
 Commands all sense to feel, all life to prove  
 The attracting force of universal love.

## A R G U M E N T.

*The Vision resumed and extended over the whole earth.*

*Present character of different nations. Future progress of society with respect to commerce, discoveries, the opening of canals, philosophical, medical and political knowledge, the assimilation and final harmony of all languages. Cause of the first confusion of tongues explained, and the effect of their union described. View of a general council of all nations assembled to establish the political harmony of mankind. Conclusion.*

## THE VISION OF COLUMBUS.

### B O O K IX.

NOW, round the yielding canopy of shade,  
Again the Guide his heavenly power display'd.  
Sudden, the stars their trembling fires withdrew,  
Returning splendors burst upon the view;  
Floods of unfolding light the skies adorn,  
And more than midday glories grace the morn.  
So shone the earth, as all the starry train,  
Broad as full suns, had fail'd the etherial plain;  
When no distinguish'd orb could strike the sight,  
But one clear blaze of all-surrounding light  
O'erflow'd the vault of heaven. For now, in view  
Remoter climes and future ages drew;  
While deeds of happier fame, in long array,  
Call'd into vision, fill the new-born day.

Far as the Angelic Power could lift the eye,  
Or earth, or ocean bend the yielding sky;  
Or circling suns awake the breathing gale,  
Drake lead the way, or Cook extend the sail;  
All lands, all seas, that boast a present name,  
And all that unborn time shall give to fame,

Around the chief in fair expansion rise,  
And earth's whole circuit bounds the level'd skies.

He saw the nations tread their different shores,  
Ply their own toils and claim their local powers.  
He mark'd what tribes still rove the savage waste,  
What happier realms the sweets of plenty taste ;  
Where arts and virtues fix their golden reign,  
Or peace adorns, or slaughter dyes the plain.  
He saw the restless Tartar, proud to roam,  
Move with his herds, and spread his transient home ;  
Thro' the vast tracts of China's fixt domain,  
The sons of dull contentment plough the plain ;  
The gloomy Turk ascends the blood-stain'd car,  
And Russian banners shade the plains of war ;  
Brazilia's wilds and Afric's burning sands  
With bickering strife inflame the furious bands ;  
On blest Atlantic isles, and Europe's shores,  
Proud wealth and commerce heap their growing stores,  
While his own western world, in prospect fair,  
Calms her brave sons, now breathing from the war,  
Unfolds her harbours, spreads the genial soil,  
And welcomes freemen to the cheerful toil.

When thus the Power. In this extended view,  
Behold the paths thy changing race pursue.  
See, thro' the whole, the same progressive plan,  
That draws, for mutual succour, man to man,  
From friends to tribes, from tribes to realms ascend,  
Their powers, their interests and their passions blend ;

Adorn their manners, social virtues spread,  
Enlarge their compacts and extend their trade ;  
While chiefs like thee, with persevering soul,  
Bid venturous barks to new discoveries roll ;  
High in the north, and tow'rd the southern skies,  
New isles and nations greet the roving eyes ;  
Till each remotest realm, by friendship join'd,  
Links in the chain that binds all human kind,  
The union'd banners rise at last unfurl'd,  
And wave triumphant round the accordant world.

As small swift streams their furious course impel,  
Till meeting waves their winding currents swell ;  
Then widening sweep thro' each descending plain,  
And move majestic to the boundless main :  
'Tis thus society's small sources rise ;  
Through passions wild their devious progress lies ;  
Interest and faith and pride and power withstand,  
And mutual ills the growing views expand ;  
Till tribes and states and empires find their place,  
\* And one wide interest sways the peaceful race.

\* Since finishing the Poem (the whole of which, except a small part of the seventh Book, was written previous to the conclusion of the late war) the Author is happy to find that his general ideas, respecting the future progress and final perfection of human society, are supported by those of so respectable a Character as Dr. Price. In his Observations on the Importance of the American Revolution, he remarks, " That Reason, as well as Tradition and Revelation, lead us to expect that a more improved and happy state of human affairs will take place before the final consummation of all things. The world has been hitherto gradually improving ; light and knowledge have been gaining ground, and human life

And see, in haste, the ascending scenes advance  
The ports unfold, the glimmering navies dance ;

“ at present, compared with what it *once* was, is much the same  
“ that a youth approaching to manhood is, compared with an infant.”

It has long been the opinion of the Author, that such a state of peace and happiness as is foretold in scripture and commonly called the millennial period, may be rationally expected to be introduced without a miracle. *Nec deus interfit nisi dignus vindice nodus*, is a maxim, as useful to a Christian Philosopher as to a Heathen Poet. Although, from the history of mankind, it appears, that the progress of improvement has been slow and often interrupted, yet it gives pleasure to observe the causes of these interruptions, and to discern the end they were designed in the course of Providence to answer, in accelerating the same events, which they seemed for a while to retard. The state of the arts among the ancients, viewed with reference to the event under consideration, was faulty or rather unfortunate in two particulars ; *first*, in their comparative estimation ; and *secondly*, in their not flourishing in more than one nation at a time. These circumstances were highly favourable to the exertions of individual genius, and may be assigned both as causes of the universal destruction of the arts by the Gothic conquest, and as reasons why we should not greatly lament that destruction. From the situation of mankind in the days of ancient literature, it was natural that those arts which depend on the imagination, such as Architecture, Statuary, Painting, Eloquence and Poetry, should claim the highest rank in the estimation of a people. In several, and perhaps all of these, the ancients remain unrivalled. But these are not the arts which tend greatly to the general improvement of mankind. The man, who in those days could have ascertained the true figure of the earth, would have rendered more service to the world, than he that could originate a heaven and fill it with all the Gods of Homer ; and had the expences of the Egyptian pyramids been employed in furnishing fleets of discovery, to be sent out of the Mediterranean, the civilized world would probably never have been overrun by Barbarians. But the sciences of Geography, Navigation and Commerce, with all their consequential improvements in natural philosophy and humanity, could not, from the nature of things, be objects of great encouragement or enterprise among the ancients. They therefore turned their attention to the cultivation of arts more striking to the senses ; such as require the strongest exertion of the human genius, and would be entitled to the highest rank in any age of universal refinement. As these arts were adapted to gratify the vanity of a prince, to fire the ambition of a hero, or to gain a point in a popular assembly, th

For commerce arm'd the different Powers combine,  
And Heaven approving aids the blest design.

were carried to a degree of perfection, which prevented their being relished or understood by barbarians. The literature of the world therefore descended with the line of conquest from one nation to another, till the whole was swallowed up in the Roman Empire. There its tendency was to inspire a contempt for nations less civilized, and to induce the Romans to consider all mankind as the objects of their insult, and all countries as the scenes of their military parade. These circumstances, through a course of ages, prepared and finally opened a scene of wretchedness, at which the human mind has been taught to shudder, but it was wisely calculated to reduce mankind to a situation, capable of commencing regular and extensive improvements. And, however novel the sentiment may appear, yet the Author will venture to assert, that, as to the prospect of universal civilization, mankind were in a much more eligible situation in the time of Charlemagne than they were in the days of Augustus. The final destruction of the Roman empire left the nations of Europe in circumstances similar to each other ; and their consequent rivalry prevented any disproportionate refinement from appearing in any particular region. The seeds of government, firmly rooted in the principles of the feudal system, laid the foundation of that balance of Power, which discourages the Cæsars and Alexanders of mankind from attempting the conquest of the world.

It seems necessary, that the arrangement of events in civilizing the world should be in the following order. *First*, all parts of it must be considerably peopled ; *secondly*, the different nations must be known to each other ; and *thirdly*, their imaginary wants must be increased, in order to inspire a passion for commerce. The first of these objects, was probably not accomplished till a late period. The second, for three centuries past, has been greatly accelerated, but is now very far from being completely obtained. The third is always a necessary consequence of the two former. The spirit of commerce is happily calculated by the Author of wisdom to open an amicable intercourse between all countries, to soften the horrors of war, to enlarge the field of science and speculation, and to assimilate the manners, feelings and languages of all nations. This leading principle, in its remoter consequences, will produce a thousand advantages in favour of government and legislation, give Patriotism the air of Philanthropy, induce all men to regard each other as brethren and friends, eradicate all kinds of literary, religious and political superstition, prepare the minds of all mankind for the rational reception of moral and religious truth, and finally evince that such a system of Providence, as appears in the unfolding of

Tho' jarring realms, awhile the combat wage,  
 And hold in lingering strife, the unsettled age ;  
 Yet no rude war, that sweeps the crimson plain,  
 Shall dare disturb the labours of the main.  
 For Heaven impartial spread the watery way,  
 Liberal as air and unconfined as day ;  
 That every distant land the wealth might share,  
 Exchange their fruits and fill their treasures there ;  
 Their speech assimilate, their empires blend,  
 And mutual interest fix the mutual friend.

The hero look'd : beneath his wondering eyes,  
 Bright streamers lengthen round the seas and skies ;  
 The countless nations open all their stores,  
 Load every wave and croud the mast'd shores ;  
 The sails, in mingling mazes, sweep the air,  
 And commerce triumphs o'er the rage of war.

these events, is the best possible system to produce the happiness of creatures. I conceive it is no objection to this plan, that the progress has hitherto been slow ; when we consider the vast magnitude of the object, the obstructions to be removed, and the great length of time that will probably be taken to accomplish it. To resume the comparison of Doctor Price, perhaps the world can hardly be said as yet to be "approaching to manhood" ; probably we are rather rising out of infancy ; we have not yet been able to wander over the whole house and observe upon the furniture. It is possible that some considerable revolutions are yet to happen, before the progress will be entirely free from embarrassments. But the general system appears so rational and complete, that it furnishes a new source of satisfaction, in contemplating the apparent dispensations of Heaven.

The author first ventured upon these ideas, in the course of the poem, with all the timidity of youth ; determining not to risk a serious illustration of the sentiment in prose. But finding that a theory so pleasing to himself has not been unnoticed by others, he feels a greater confidence in the subject, and hopes the importance of it will apologize to the reader for so lengthy a note.

From Baltic streams, that swell in lonely pride,  
 From Rhine's long course, and Texel's labouring tide,  
 From Gallia's coast, from Albion's hoary height,  
 And fair Hibernia, clothed in purer light,  
 Hispania's strand, that two broad oceans lave,  
 From Senegal's and Tagus' winding wave,  
 The gathering masts, in peaceful squadrons, rise,  
 And wave their cloudly curtains to the skies.  
 Thro' the deep strait that leads the midland tide,  
 The sails look forth and swell their beauteous pride ;  
 Where Asia's isles and utmost shores extend,  
 Like rising suns, the sheeted masts ascend,  
 And join with peaceful toil the friendly train,  
 No more to combat on the liquid plain.  
 In distant glory, where the watery way  
 Spreads the blue borders of descending day,  
 The flowing flags unfold, in lengthening sweep,  
 Pride of the world and daughters of the deep.  
 From Arctic heavens, and deep in southern skies,  
 Where frost recedes as blooms of culture rise—  
 Where eastern Amur's lengthening current glides,  
 Where California breaks the billowy tides,  
 Peruvian streams their golden margins boast,  
 And spreading Chili leads the channel'd coast,  
 The pinions swell ; till all the cloud-like train,  
 From pole to pole, o'er shades the whitening main.  
 So some imperial Seraph, placed on high,  
 From heaven's sublimest tower o'erlook'd the sky ;

When space unfolding heard the voice of God,  
 And suns and stars and systems roll'd abroad,  
 Caught their first splendors from the all-beaming Eye  
 Began their years, and vaulted round the sky ;  
 Their mingling spheres in bright confusion play,  
 Exchange their beams and fill the new-born day.

He saw, as widely spreads the unchannel'd plain,  
 Where inland realms for ages bloom'd in vain,  
 Canals, long-winding, ope a watery flight,  
 And distant streams and seas and lakes unite.  
 Where Darien hills o'erlook the gulphy tide,  
 By human art, the ridgy banks divide ;  
 Ascending fails the opening pafs pursue,  
 And waft the sparkling treasures of Peru,  
 Jeneiro's stream from Plata winds his way,  
 And bold Madera opes from Paraguay.  
 From fair Albania, tow'rd the falling sun,  
 Back thro' the midland, lengthening channels run,  
 Meet the far lakes, their beauteous towns that lave,  
 And Hudson join to broad Ohio's wave.  
 From dim Superior, whose unfathom'd sea  
 Drinks the mild splendors of the setting day,  
 New paths, unfolding, lead their watery pride,  
 And towns and empires rise along their side ;  
 To Mississippi's source the paffes bend,  
 And to the broad Pacific main extend.  
 From the red banks of blest Arabia's tide,  
 Thro' the dread Isthmus, waves unwonted glide ;

From Europe's crouded coasts while bounding fails  
 Look through the pafs and call the Asian gales.  
 Volga and Oby distant oceans join,  
 And the long Danube meets the rolling Rhine ;  
 While other streams that cleave the midland plain,  
 Spread their new courses to the distant main.

He saw the aspiring genius of the age  
 Soar in the bard and strengthen in the sage ;  
 With daring thought thro' time's long flight extend,  
 Rove the wide earth and with the heaven ascend ;  
 Bid each fond wish, that leads the soul abroad,  
 Breathe to all men, to nature and to God.

He saw, where pale diseases, wont to brave  
 The pride of art, and croud the untimely grave,  
 With long-wrought life the nations learn to glow,  
 And blooming health adorn the locks of snow,  
 A countless train the healing science aid,  
 Its power establish and its blessings spread ;  
 In every shape, that varying matter gives,  
 That rests or ripens, vegetates or lives,  
 By chymic power the springs of health they trace,  
 And add new beauties to the joyous race.

While thus the realms their mutual glories lend,  
 Unnumber'd fires the cares of state attend ;  
 Blest with each human art, and skill'd to find,  
 Each wild device that prompts the wayward mind ;  
 What soft restraints the untemper'd breast requires,  
 To taste new joys and cherish new desires,

Expand the selfish to the social flame,  
 And fire the soul to deeds of nobler fame.  
 They see, in all the boasted paths of praise,  
 What partial views heroic ardor raise ;  
 What mighty states on others' ruins stood,  
 And built, secure, their haughty seats in blood ;  
 How public virtue's ever-borrow'd name  
 With proud applause hath graced the deeds of shame;  
 Bade Rome's imperial standard wave sublime,  
 And patriot slaughter spread to every clime ;  
 From chief to chief, the kindling spirit ran,  
 The heirs of fame and enemies of man.

Where Grecian states in even balance hung,  
 And warm'd with jealous fires the sage's tongue,  
 The exclusive ardor cherish'd in the breast  
 Love to one land, and hatred to the rest.  
 And where the flames of civil discord rage,  
 And kindred arms destructive combat wage,  
 The unchanging virtue rises, still the same,  
 To build a Cromwell's as a Charles's name,

No more the noble patriotic mind,  
 To narrow views and local laws confined,  
 'Gainst neighbouring lands directs the public rage,  
 Plots for a realm or counsels for an age ;  
 But lifts a larger thought, and reaches far,  
 Beyond the power, beyond the wish of war ;  
 For realms and ages forms the general aim,  
 Makes patriot views and moral views the same,

Sees with prophetic eye in peace combined,  
 The strength and happiness of human-kind.  
 Now had the hero, with delighted eye,  
 Roved o'er the climes, that lengthen'd round the sky ;  
 When the blest Guide his heavenly power display'd,  
 The earth all trembles and the visions fade :  
 Thro' other scenes descending ages roll,  
 And still new wonders open on his soul.  
 Again his view the range of nature bounds,  
 Confines the concave and the world furrounds ;  
 When the wide nations all arise more near,  
 And a mixt tumult murmurs in his ear.  
 At first, like heavy thunders, borne, afar,  
 Or the dire conflict of a moving war,  
 Or waves resounding on the craggy shore,  
 Hoarse roll'd the loud-toned undulating roar.  
 At length the sounds, like human voices, rise,  
 And different nations' undistinguish'd cries  
 Flow from all climes around in wild career,  
 And grate harsh discord in the aching ear.  
 Now more distinct the wide concussion, grown,  
 Rolls forth, at times, an accent like his own ;  
 While thousand tongues from different regions pour,  
 And drown all words in one convulsing roar.  
 By turns the sounds assimilating rise,  
 And smoother voices gain upon the skies ;  
 Mingling and softening still, in every gale,  
 O'er the harsh tones harmonious strains prevail.

At last a simple, universal sound  
 Fills every clime and sooths the world around;  
 From echoing shores the swelling strain replies,  
 And moves melodious o'er the warbling skies.

Such wild commotions as he heard and view'd,  
 In fixt astonishment the hero stood,  
 And thus besought the Guide : Celestial friend,  
 What good to man can these dread scenes intend ?  
 What dire distress attends that boding sound,  
 That breathes hoarse thunder o'er the trembling  
 War sure has ceased; or have my erring eyes [ground?  
 Misread the glorious visions of the skies ?  
 Tell then, my Seer, if future earthquakes sleep,  
 Closed in the conscious caverns of the deep,  
 Waiting the day of vengeance, when to roll,  
 And rock the rending pillars of the pole ?  
 Or tell if ought, more dreadful to my race,  
 In these dark signs, thy heavenly wisdom trace ?  
 And why the wild confusion melts again,  
 In the smooth glidings of a tuneful strain ?

The voice of Heaven replied ; Thy fears give o'er ;  
 The rage of war shall sweep the plains no more ;  
 No dire distress these strange events foredoom,  
 But give the marks of nobler joys to come ;  
 The tongues of nations, here, harmonious blend,  
 Till one pure language thro' the earth extend.

Thou knowest, when impious Babel dared arise,  
 With sacred rites to grace the starry skies,

Tumultuous discord seized the trembling bands,  
 Opposed their labours and unnerved their hands,  
 Dispersed the bickering tribes, and drove them far,  
 To roam the waste and fire their souls for war ;  
 Bade kings arise, and from their seats be hurl'd,  
 And pride and conquest range the extended world.

In this the marks of heavenly wisdom shine,  
 And speak the counsel, as the hand, divine.  
 In that far age, when o'er the world's broad waste,  
 Surrounding shades their gloomy horrors cast,  
 If men, while pride and power the breast inflamed,  
 By speech allied, one natal region claim'd,  
 No timorous tribe a different clime would gain,  
 Or lift the sail, or dare the billowy main.  
 Fixt in a central spot their lust of power  
 Would rage insatiate, and the race devour ;  
 A howling waste the unpeopled world remain,  
 And oceans roll, and climes extend in vain.

Far other counsels, in the Eternal Mind,  
 Lead on the unconscious steps of human kind ;  
 O'errule the ills their daring crimes produce,  
 By ways unseen, to serve the happiest use.  
 For this, the early tribes were taught to range,  
 For this, their language and their laws to change ;  
 Tempt the wide wave and warm the genial soil,  
 To crown with fruits the hardy hand of toil,  
 Divide their forces, wheel the conquering car,  
 Deal mutual death, and civilize by war.

And now the effects, thro' every land, extend,  
 These dread events have found their fated end ;  
 Unnumber'd tribes have dared the savage wood,  
 And streams unnumber'd swell'd with human blood,  
 Increasing nations with the years of time,  
 Spread their wide walks to each delighted clime,  
 To mutual wants their barter'd tributes paid,  
 Their counsels soften'd and their wars allay'd ;  
 While powerful commerce bids the flag unroll,  
 And wave the union of the accordant whole.

At this blest period, when thy peaceful race  
 Shall speak one language and one cause embrace,  
 Science and arts a speedier course shall find,  
 And open earlier on the infant mind.  
 No foreign terms shall croud with barbarous rules,  
 The dull, unmeaning pageantry of schools ;  
 Nor dark authorities, nor names unknown  
 Fill the learn'd head with ign'rance not its own ;  
 But truth's fair eye, with beams unclouded, shine,  
 And simplest rules her moral lights confine ;  
 One living language, one unborrow'd dress  
 Her boldest flights with happiest force express ;  
 Triumphant virtue, in the garb of truth,  
 Win a pure passage to the heart of youth,  
 Pervade all climes, where suns or oceans roll,  
 And bid the gospel cheer the illumined whole.  
 As the glad day-star, on his golden throne,  
 Fair type of truth and promise of the sun,

Smiles up the orient, in his rosy ray,  
 Illumes the front of heaven, and leads the day ;  
 Thus soaring Science daughter of the skies,  
 First o'er the nations bids her beauties rise,  
 Prepares the glorious way, to pour abroad  
 The beams of Heaven's own morn, the splendors of a  
 Then blest Religion leads the raptured mind, [God.  
 Thro' brighter fields and pleasures more refined ;  
 Teaches the roving eye, at one broad view,  
 To glance o'er time and look Existence thro',  
 See worlds, and worlds, to Being's formless end,  
 With all their hosts, on one dread Power depend,  
 Seraphs and suns and systems round him rise,  
 Live in his life and kindle from his eyes,  
 His boundless love, his all-pervading soul  
 Illume, sublime and harmonize the whole ;  
 Teaches the pride of man to fix its bound,  
 In one small point of this amazing round ;  
 To shrink and rest, where Heaven has fix'd its fate,  
 A line its space, a moment for its date ;  
 Instructs the heart a nobler joy to taste,  
 And share its feelings with another's breast,  
 Extend its warmest wish for all mankind,  
 And catch the image of the Maker's mind ;  
 While mutual love commands all strife to cease,  
 And earth join joyous in the songs of peace.

Thus heard the chief, impatient to behold  
 The expected years, in all their charms, unfold ;

The soul stood speaking thro' his gazing eyes,  
 And thus his voice ; Oh, bid the visions rise !  
 Command, celestial guide, from each far pole,  
 The blissful morn to open on my soul ;  
 And lift those scenes, that ages fold in night,  
 Living, and glorious, to my longing sight ;  
 Let heaven, unfolding, ope the eternal throne,  
 And all the concave flame in one clear sun ;  
 On clouds of fire, with Angels at his side,  
 The Prince of peace, the King of Salem ride,  
 With smiles of love to greet the raptured earth,  
 Call slumbering ages to a second birth ;  
 With all his white-robed millions fill the train,  
 And here commence the interminable reign.

Such views, the Power replies, would drown thy sight,  
 And seal thy visions in eternal night ;  
 Nor Heaven permits, nor Angels can display  
 The unborn glories of that blissful day.  
 Enough for thee, that thy delighted mind,  
 Should trace the deeds and blessings of thy kind ;  
 That time's descending vale should ope so far,  
 Beyond the reach of wretchedness and war ;  
 Till all the paths in Heaven's extended plan,  
 Fair in thy view should lead the steps of man ;  
 To form, at last, in earth's benighted ball,  
 Union of parts and happiness of all.  
 To thy glad view these rolling scenes have shown,  
 What boundless blessings thy vast labours crown ;

That, with the joys of unborn ages blest,  
 Thy soul, exulting, may retire to rest,  
 And find, in regions of unclouded day,  
 What heaven's bright walks and endless years display.

Behold, once more, around the earth and sky,  
 The last glad visions wait thy raptured eye.  
 The great Observer look'd ; the land and sea,  
 In solemn grandeur, stretch'd beneath him, lay ;  
 Here swell the mountains, there the oceans roll,  
 And beams of beauty kindle round the pole.  
 O'er all the range, where coasts and climes extend,  
 In glorious pomp the works of peace ascend.  
 Robed in the bloom of spring's eternal year,  
 And ripe with fruits, the same glad fields appear,  
 On each long strand unnumber'd cities run,  
 Bend their bright walls and sparkle to the sun ;  
 The streams, all freighted from the bounteous plain,  
 Swell with the load and labour to the main ;  
 Where widening waves command a bolder gale,  
 And prop the pinions of a broader sail :  
 Sway'd with the floating weight, the ocean toils,  
 And joyous nature's last perfection smiles.

Now, fair beneath his view, the important age  
 Leads the bold actors on a broader stage ;  
 When, clothed majestic in the robes of state,  
 Moved by one voice, in general council meet  
 The fathers of all empires : 'twas the place,  
 Near the first footsteps of the human race ;

Where wretched men, first wandering from their God,  
 Began their feuds and led their tribes abroad.  
 In this mid region, this delightful clime,  
 Rear'd by whole realms, to brave the wrecks of time,  
 A spacious structure rose, sublimely great,  
 The last resort, the unchanging scene of state.

On rocks of adamant the walls ascend,  
 Tall columns heave, and Parian arches bend ;  
 High o'er the golden roofs, the rising spires,  
 Far in the concave meet the solar fires ;  
 Four blazing fronts, with gates unfolding high,  
 Look, with immortal splendor, round the sky :  
 Hither the delegated fires ascend,  
 And all the cares of every clime attend.  
 As the fair first-born messengers of heaven,  
 To whom the care of stars and suns is given,  
 When the last circuit of their winding spheres  
 Hath finish'd time and mark'd their sum of years,  
 From all the bounds of space (their labours done)  
 Shall wing their triumphs to the eternal throne ;  
 Each, from his far dim sky, illumines the road,  
 And sails and centres tow'rd the mount of God ;  
 There, in mid heaven, their honour'd seats to spread,  
 And ope the untarnish'd volumes of the dead :  
 So, from all climes of earth, where nations rise,  
 Or lands or oceans bound the incumbent skies,  
 Wing'd with unwonted speed, the gathering throng  
 In ships and chariots, shape their course along ;

Till, wide o'er earth and sea, they win their way,  
 Where the bold structure flames against the day ;  
 There, hail the splendid feat by Heaven assign'd,  
 To hear and give the counsels of mankind.  
 Now the dread concourse, in the ample dome,  
 Pour thro' the arches and their seats assume ;  
 Far as the extended eye can range around,  
 Or the deep trumpet's solemn voice resound,  
 Long rows of reverend fires, sublime, extend,  
 And cares of worlds on every brow suspend.  
 High in the front, for manlier virtues known,  
 A fire elect, in peerless grandeur, shone ;  
 And rising oped the universal cause,  
 To give each realm its limit and its laws ;  
 Bid the last breath of dire contention cease,  
 And bind all regions in the leagues of peace,  
 Bid one great empire, with extensive sway,  
 Spread with the sun and bound the walks of day,  
 One centred system, one all-ruling soul,  
 Live thro' the parts, and regulate the whole.

Here, said the Angel with a blissful smile,  
 Behold the fruits of thy unwearied toil.  
 To yon far regions of descending day,  
 Thy swelling pinions led the untrodden way,  
 And taught mankind adventurous deeds to dare,  
 To trace new seas and peaceful empires rear ;  
 Hence, round the globe, their rival sails, unfurl'd,  
 Have waved, at last, in union o'er the world.

Let thy delighted soul no more complain,  
 Of dangers braved and griefs endured in vain,  
 Of courts insidious, envy's poison'd stings,  
 The loss of empire and the frown of kings ;  
 While these bright scenes thy glowing thoughts com-  
 To spurn the vengeance of insulting foes ; [pose,  
 And all the joys, descending ages gain,  
 Repay thy labours and remove thy pain.

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