

POEMS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649330560

Poems by William Colquitt

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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WILLIAM COLQUITT

POEMS

P O E M S

BY

WILLIAM COLQUITT, A. B.

LATE OF CHRIST COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

*Interim et sublimitate heroici carminis animus affurgit: et ex magnitudinis rerum spiritum
ducit, et optimis imbuitur.—Utiles tragediæ.—Alant lyrici. QUINTILIAN.*

Chester,

PRINTED BY W. G. JONES;

AND SOLD BY T. CADELL AND W. DAVIES, STRAND, LONDON;

AND W. JONES, AND W. ROBINSON, LIVERPOOL.

1802.

THE PREFACE.

THE Author of the following Poems had no intention of making them public at the time of his composition, which he did for his own amusement, till meditating upon the information, as well as entertainment, they might give to the learned reader, concluded upon the same.

The subjects he has wrote upon are, according to his estimation, worthy their notice. He will not attempt here to induce the reader to an approbation of this work; for if he does not approve it for its utility, as well as information, the Author cannot think that he will sooner by any recommendation in a preface.

The subject of the first poem, which is chiefly pastoral, is a Morning Walk in the Month of September; intended to give a pleasing description of the country at early morn, as well as of the harvest, and to divert the mind from atheistic principles and lethargy.

The second is the Astronomer. Astronomy being, by the most learned in all ages, esteemed the noblest science invented by man; since

it tends to raise our minds to heaven, and excites us to glorify both the Creator and his superior works above. In this poem, which is the first on this subject ever completed in this country, and which the Author has taken no little pains with, by reducing into a small compass much information on a great subject. The solar system, as well as the discoveries of modern astronomers, are here recorded. It is impossible to solve and prove each problem in verse so clear and satisfactory as mathematical demonstration; although the author has not omitted mentioning the different projects the Astronomer makes use of to elucidate his poem. To relate and explain the geometry of this earth alone, as well as the cycles of the sun and moon, would be a subject for a poem; yet the principal parts necessary to be known are here recorded, and what could not be related in verse are explained in notes. He is perfectly satisfied, that when his observations come to be properly considered, others will be of the same way of thinking, and those of sound judgment impartially judge of the same.

With respect to the planets being inhabited, none can discover this for certainty; but the Author having paid due regard to causes and effects, as well as to the sun's heat and light on bodies far and near, is of opinion, that none of the planets in our system can consistently be inhabited, except the planets Mercury, Venus, this Earth, and Mars, as their days and nights are nearly equal, each of them receiving a sufficient degree of fermentation and light for the same. It does not follow,

that if any of the superior planets, their moons, or the comets are not inhabited, though of such immense magnitude, that the Supreme Fabricator of the universe has made them in vain, any more than he has made an island or a mountain desolate, or a blushing flower to bloom in a desert unseen. It was the God of nature's pleasure to make them as seemed best to himself, and not as seemed best to us his creatures, who are only to admire them, and adore Him who, by secret methods, rules and guides the whole. As this is sometimes the subject of conversation among Astronomers, the Author begs leave to submit his opinion to the public upon this, which he thought might not be unacceptable to the learned reader.

The third poem is an accurate description of Liverpool, which is now the largest and most opulent seaport town of any in England, next to London. In this he has described the principal buildings and docks, which are peculiar to it.

The fourth is a description of York Cathedral, generally called York Minster; which is at this time reckoned to be one of the finest Gothic structures in Europe.

The fifth is the Merchant; in which he has made some remarks on the advantages of commerce and the trade of this country with every quarter of this habitable globe.

The sixth is a poem in behalf of the new-erected Blind Asylum at Liverpool; in which is displayed the heavenly faculty of sight.

The seventh was at first intended to be an Elegy on the decease of Scrope Colquitt, Esq. of Liverpool; in which he has represented the advantages of good manners and a virtuous life to the attainment of happiness here and everlasting life.

The Author, different from poets in general, has avoided recording any verses to fill up or lengthen his poems which do not give information. He has written several others, but the subjects were such as he thought not worth the attention of the public, therefore declined exposing them. From the opportunities he has had of information, he has endeavoured to render these poems pleasing and intelligible; and therefore presents them (though sensible of their imperfections) to the judgment of the impartial and literary public.



AURORA

THE MORNING WALK.

Nascere praeque diem veniens aegae Lucifer almmum. VIRGIL.

AURORA breaks the skies at early morn,
When from the east she glances o'er the lawn;
Her glimm'ring rays the sun's advance display;
While the cock crows to tell returning day.
The animal creation, cheer'd with light,
Run here and there, as if with some delight:
The swains from rest renew their daily toil,
And in these improv'd lands turn o'er the foil.
Hence in what numbers shall my sweet muse sing
The dewy sweets and views the mornings' bring,
The gentle gales through woods and fragrant flowers,
Now so delicious near the rural bowers?
The morning's fine, I'll take my walks abroad,
When plummy beds my neighbouring friends defraud,
To see the gardens or the fields produce,
The swelling fruit and full-ear'd corn for use.