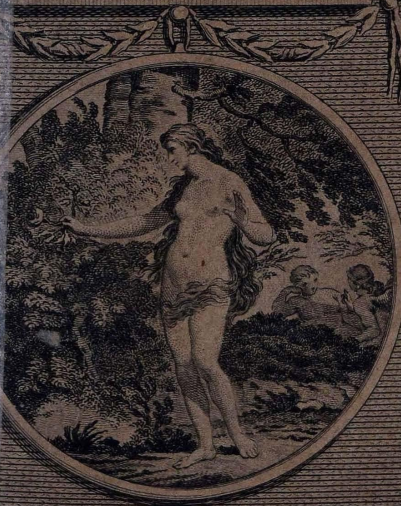
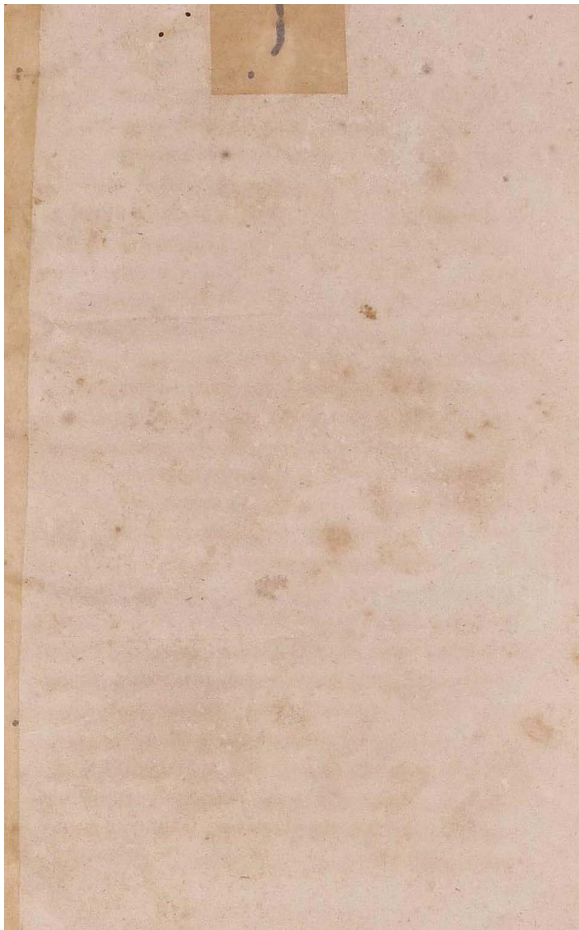


BELL'S EDITION,  
The POETS of GREAT BRITAIN  
COMPLETE, FROM  
CHAUCER to CHURCHILL.



MILTON VOLUME II.  
Rose & went forth among her fruits & flowers.

For, last Book. Vers. line 44.





*Sir John* THE *Rajah*  
POETICAL WORKS  
OF  
JOHN MILTON.

FROM THE TEXT OF DR. NEWTON.

953 IN FOUR VOLUMES. 781

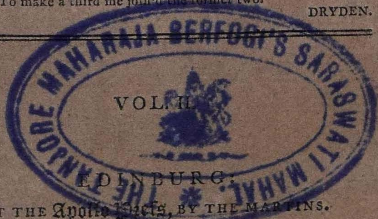
WITH THE LIFE OF THE AUTHOR.

2 AND A CRITIQUE ON PARADISE LOST,

BY JOSEPH ADDISON, ESQ.

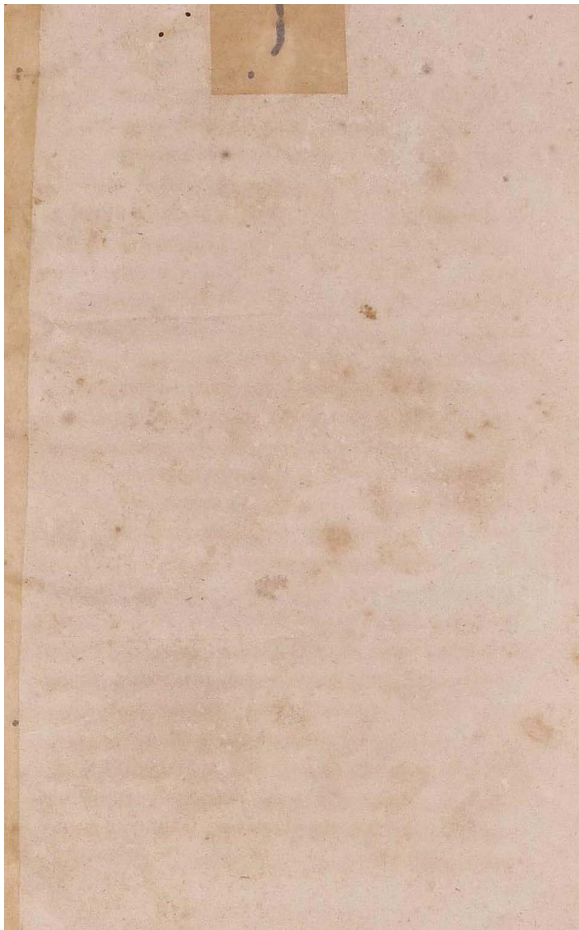
Three poets, in three distant ages born,  
Greece, Italy, and England, did adorn.  
The first in loftiness of thought surpass;  
The next in majesty; in both the last.  
The force of Nature could no further go:  
To make a third she join'd the former two.

DRYDEN.



AT THE Apollo Books, BY THE MARTINS.

Anno 1779.



# PARADISE LOST.

A POEM IN TWELVE BOOKS.

THE AUTHOR

JOHN MILTON.

FROM

THE TEXT OF DR. NEWTON.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

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Milton---with high and haughty stalks,  
Unfetter'd, in majestic numbers walks:  
No vulgar hero can his Muse engage,  
Nor earth's wide scene confine his hallow'd rage.  
See! see! he upward springs, and, tow'ring high,  
Spurns the dull province of mortality;  
Shakes Heav'n's eternal throne with dire alarms,  
And sets th' almighty Thunderer in arms!

ADDISON.

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VOL. II.

EDINBURG:

AT THE Apollo Press, BY THE MARTINS.

Anno 1779.

Empyrean; from before her vanish'd Night,  
Shot through with orient beams; when all the plain  
Cover'd with thick imbattel'd squadrons bright, 16  
Chariots and flaming arms, and fiery steeds  
Reflecting blaze on blaze, first met his view:  
War he perceiv'd, war in procinct, and found  
Already known what he for news had thought 20  
To have reported: gladly then he mix'd  
Among those friendly powers, who him receiv'd  
With joy and acclamations loud, that one,  
That of so many myriads fall'n, yet one  
Return'd not lost: on to the Sacred Hill 25  
They led him high applauded, and present  
Before the seat supreme; from whence a voice  
From midst a golden cloud thus mild was heard.

Servant of God, well done; well hast thou fought  
The better fight, who single hast maintain'd 30  
Against revolted multitudes the cause  
Of truth, in word mightier than they in arms;  
And for the testimony' of truth hast borne  
Universal reproach, far worse to bear  
Than violence; for this was all thy care 35  
To stand approv'd in sight of God, though worlds  
Judg'd thee perverse: the easier conquest now  
Remains thee, aided by this host of friends,  
Back on thy foes more glorious to return  
Than scorn'd thou didst depart, and to subdue 40  
By force, who reason for their law refuse,

Right reason for their law, and for their king  
Messiah, who by right of merit reigns.  
Go Michael of celestial armies prince,  
And thou in military prowess next 45  
Gabriel, lead forth to battel these my sons  
Invincible, lead forth my armed saints  
By thousands and by millions rang'd for fight,  
Equal in number to that godless crew  
Rebellious; them with fire and hostile arms 50  
Fearless assault, and to the brow of Heav'n  
Pursuing drive them out from God and bliss  
Into their place of punishment, the gulf  
Of Tartarus, which ready opens wide  
His fiery chaos to receive their fall. 55

So spake the sovran Voice, and clouds began  
To darken all the hill, and smoke to roll  
In dusky wreaths, reluctant flames, the sign  
Of wrath awak'd; nor with less dread the loud  
Ethereal trumpet from on high 'gan blow : 60  
At which command the powers militant,  
That stood for Heav'n, in mighty quadrate join'd  
Of union irresistible, mov'd on  
In silence their bright legions, to the found  
Of instrumental harmony, that breath'd 65  
Heroic ardor to advent'rous deeds  
Under their godlike leaders, in the cause  
Of God and his Messiah. On they move  
Indissolubly firm; nor obvious hill,



Nor strait'ning vale, nor wood nor stream divides 70  
Their perfect ranks; for high above the ground  
Their march was, and the passive air upbore  
Their nimble tread; as when the total kind  
Of birds, in orderly array on wing,  
Came summon'd over Eden to receive 75  
Their names of thee; so over many a tract  
Of Heav'n they march'd, and many a province wide  
Tenfold the length of this terrene: at last  
Far in th' horizon to the North appear'd  
From skirt to skirt a fiery region, stretch'd 80  
In battailous aspect, and nearer view  
Bristled with upright beams innumerable  
Of rigid spears, and helmets throng'd, and shields  
Various, with boastful argument portray'd,  
The banded powers of Satan hastening on 85  
With furious expedition; for they ween'd  
That self-same day by fight, or by surprise,  
To win the Mount of God, and on his throne  
To set the Envier of his state, the proud  
Aspirer, but their thoughts prov'd fond and vain 90  
In the mid-way: though strange to us it seem'd  
At first, that angel should with angel war,  
And in fierce hosting meet, who wont to meet  
So oft in festivals of joy and love  
Unanimous, as sons of one great Sire 95  
Hymning th' eternal Father: but the shout  
Of battel now began, and rushing sound

Of onset ended soon each milder thought.  
High in the midst exalted as a god  
Th' Apostate in his sun-bright chariot sat, 100  
Idol of Majesty divine, inclos'd  
With flaming cherubim and golden shields;  
Then lighted from his gorgeous throne, for now  
'Twixt host and host but narrow space was left,  
A dreadful interval, and front to front 105  
Presented stood in terrible array  
Of hideous length: before the cloudy van,  
On the rough edge of battel ere it join'd,  
Satan with vast and haughty strides advanc'd  
Came towering, arm'd in adamant and gold; 110  
Abdiel that sight endur'd not, where he stood  
Among the mightiest, bent on highest deeds,  
And thus his own undaunted heart explores.

O Heav'n! that such resemblance of the Highest  
Should yet remain, where faith and reäly 115  
Remain not: wherefore should not strength and might  
There fail where virtue fails, or weakest prove  
Where boldest, though to fight unconquerable?  
His puissance, trusting in th' Almighty's aid,  
I mean to try, whose reason I have try'd 120  
Unfound and false; nor is it ought but just,  
That he who in debate of truth hath won  
Should win in arms, in both disputes alike  
Victor; though brutish that contest and foul,  
When Reason hath to deal with Force, yet so 125

Most reason is that Reason overcome.

So pondering, and from his armed peers  
Forth stepping opposit, half way he met  
His daring foe, at this prevention more  
Incens'd, and thus securely him defy'd. 130

Proud, art thou met? thy hope was to have reach'd  
The highth of thy aspiring unoppos'd,  
The throne of God unguarded, and his side  
Abandon'd at the terror of thy power  
Or potent tongue: Fool, not to think how vain 135  
Against th' Omnipotent to rise in arms;  
Who out of smallest things could without end  
Have rais'd incessant armies to defeat  
Thy folly; or with solitary hand  
Reaching beyond all limit, at one blow 140  
Unaided could have finish'd thee, and whelm'd  
Thy legions under darkness: but thou see'st  
All are not of thy train; there be who faith  
Prefer, and piety to God, though then  
To thee not visible, when I alone 145

Seem'd in thy world erroneous to dissent  
From all: my sect thou see'st; now learn too late  
How few sometimes may know when thousands err.

Whom the grand Foe with scornful eye askance  
Thus answer'd. Ill for thee, but in wish'd hour 150  
Of my revenge, first sought for thou return'st  
From flight, seditious angel, to receive  
Thy merited reward, the first assay

Of this right hand provok'd, since first that tongue  
Inspir'd with contradiction darst oppose 153

A third part of the gods, in synod met  
Their deities to assert, who while they feel  
Vigor divine within them, can allow  
Omnipotence to none. But well thou com'st  
Before thy fellows, ambitious to win 160

From me some plume, that thy success may show  
Destruction to the rest : this pause between  
(Unanswer'd lest thou boast) to let thee know ;  
At first I thought that Liberty and Heav'n  
To heav'nly souls had been all one ; but now 165

I see that most through sloth had rather serve,  
Ministring spi'rits, train'd up in feast and song ;  
Such hast thou arm'd, the minstrelsy of Heav'n,  
Servility with Freedom to contend,  
As both their deeds compar'd this day shall prove. 170

To whom in brief thus Abdiel stern reply'd.  
Apostate, still thou err'st, nor end wilt find  
Of erring, from the path of Truth remote :  
Unjustly thou deprav'st it with the name  
Of Servitude to serve whom God ordains, 175  
Or Nature : God and Nature bid the same,  
When he who rules is worthiest, and excels  
Them whom he governs. This is servitude,  
To serve th' unwise, or him who hath rebell'd  
Against his worthier, as thine now serve thee, 180  
Thyself not free, but to thyself inthrall'd;

Yet lewdly dar'st our ministring upbraid.  
Reign thou in Hell thy kingdom; let me serve  
In Heav'n God ever blest, and his divine  
Behests obey, worthiest to be obey'd; 185  
Yet chains in Hell not realms expect: mean while  
From me return'd, as erst thou saidst, from flight,  
'This greeting on thy impious crest receive.

So say'ing, a noble stroke he lifted high,  
Which hung not, but so swift with tempest fell 190  
On the proud crest of Satan, that no sight,  
Nor motion of swift thought, less could his shield  
Such ruin intercept: ten paces huge  
He back recoil'd; the tenth on bended knee  
His massy spear upstay'd; as if on earth 195  
Winds under ground, or waters forcing way  
Sidelong had push'd a mountain from his seat  
Half sunk with all his pines. Amazement seiz'd  
The rebel thrones, but greater rage to see  
Thus foil'd their mightiest; ours joy fill'd, and shout,  
Prefage of victory, and fierce desire 201  
Of battel: whereat Michaël bid sound  
Th' arch-angel trumpet; through the vast of Heav'n  
It sounded, and the faithful armies rung  
Hosanna to the High'est: nor stood at gaze 205  
The adverse legions, nor less hideous join'd  
'The horrid shock: now storming fury rose,  
And clamor such as heard in Heav'n till now  
Was never; arms on armour clashing bray'd



Horrible discord, and the madding wheels 210  
Of brazen chariots rag'd; dire was the noise  
Of conflict; over head the dismal hiss  
Of fiery darts in flaming volies flew,  
And flying vaulted either host with fire.  
So under fiery cope together rush'd 215  
Both battels main, with ruinous assault  
And inextinguishable rage; all Heav'n  
Resounded, and had Earth been then, all Earth  
Had to her center shook. What wonder? when  
Millions of fire-encount'ring angels fought 220  
On either side, the least of whom could wield  
These elements, and arm him with the force  
Of all their regions: how much more of power  
Army' against army numberless to raise  
Dreadful combustion warring, and disturb, 225  
Though not destroy, their happy native seat;  
Had not th' eternal King omnipotent  
From his strong hold of Heav'n high over rul'd  
And limited their might; though number'd such  
As each divided legion might have seem'd 230  
A numerous host, in strength each armed hand  
A legion, led in fight yet leader seem'd  
Each warrior single as in chief, expert  
When to advance, or stand, or turn the sway  
Of battel, open when, and when to close 235  
The ridges of grim War: no thought of flight,  
None of retreat, no unbecoming deed

That argued fear; each on himself rely'd,  
As only in his arm the moment lay  
Of victory: deeds of eternal fame 240  
Were done, but infinite; for wide was spread  
That war and various; sometimes on firm ground  
A standing fight, then soaring on main wing  
Tormented all the air; all air seem'd then  
Conflicting fire: long time in even scale 245  
The battel hung; till Satan, who that day  
Prodigious power had shewn, and met in arms  
No equal, ranging through the dire attack  
Of fighting seraphim confus'd, at length 249  
Saw where the sword of Michael smote, and fell'd  
Squadrons at once; with huge two-handed sway  
Brandish'd aloft the horrid edge came down  
Wide wasting; such destruction to withstand  
He hasted, and oppos'd the rocky orb  
Of tenfold adamant, his ample shield, 255  
A vast circumference: at his approach  
The great arch-angel from his warlike toil  
Surceas'd, and glad, as hoping here to end  
Intestin war in Heav'n, th' Arch-foe subdu'd  
Or captive dragg'd in chains, with hostile frown 260  
And visage all inflam'd first thus began.

Author of ev'il, unknown till thy revolt,  
Unnam'd in Heav'n, now plenteous, as thou seest  
These acts of hateful strife, hateful to all,  
Though heaviest by just measure on thyself 265

And thy adherents: how hast thou disturb'd  
Heav'n's blessed peace, and into Nature brought  
Misery, uncreated till the crime  
Of thy rebellion? how hast thou instill'd  
Thy malice into thousands, once upright 270  
And faithful, now prov'd false? But think not here  
To trouble holy rest; Heav'n casts thee out  
From all her confines. Heav'n the seat of bliss  
Brooks not the works of Violence and War.  
Hence then, and evil go with thee along, 275  
Thy offspring, to the place of evil, Hell,  
Thou and thy wicked crew; there mingle broils,  
Ere this avenging sword begin thy doom,  
Or some more sudden vengeance wing'd from God  
Precipitate thee with augmented pain. 280

So spake the Prince of angels; to whom thus  
The Adversary. Nor think thou with wind  
Of aery threats to awe whom yet with deeds  
Thou canst not. Hast thou turn'd the least of these  
To flight, or if to fall, but that they rise 285  
Unvanquish'd, easier to transact with me  
That thou shouldst hope, Imperious, and with threats  
To chase me hence? err not that so shall end  
The strife which thou call'st Evil, but we stile  
The Strife of Glory; which we mean to win, 290  
Or turn this Heav'n itself into the Hell.  
Thou fablest, here however to dwell free,  
If not to reign: mean while thy utmost force,

And join him nam'd Almighty to thy aid,  
I fly not, but have sought thee far and nigh. 295

They ended parle, and both address'd for fight  
Unspeakable; for who, though with the tongue  
Of angels, can relate, or to what things  
Likon on earth conspicuous, that may lift  
Human imagination to such highth 300  
Of godlike power? for likest gods they seem'd,  
Stood they or mov'd, in stature, motion, arms,  
Fit to decide the empire of great Heav'n.

Now wav'd their fiery swords, and in the air  
Made horrid circles; two broad suns their shields 305  
Blaz'd opposit, while Expectation flood  
In horror; from each hand with speed retir'd,  
Where erst was thickest fight, th' angelic throng,  
And left large field, unsafe within the wind  
Of such commotion; such as, to set forth 310  
Great things by small, if Nature's concord broke,  
Among the constellations war were sprung,  
Two planets rushing from aspect malign  
Of fiercest opposition in mid sky  
Should combat, and their jarring spheres confound.  
Together both with next to' almighty arm 315  
Up-lifted imminent, one stroke they aim'd  
That might determin, and not need repeat,  
As not of power at once; nor odds appear'd  
In might or swift prevention: but the sword 320  
Of Michael from the armoury of God

Was giv'n him temper'd so, that neither keen  
Nor solid might resist that edge : it met  
The sword of Satan with steep force to smite  
Descending, and in half cut sheer; nor stay'd, 325  
But with swift wheel reverse, deep entring shar'd  
All his right side : then Satan first knew pain,  
And writh'd him to and fro convolv'd; so fore  
The griding sword with discontinuous wound  
Pass'd through him : but th' ethereal substance clos'd;  
Not long divisible; and from the gash 331  
A stream of necta'rous humor issuing flow'd  
Sanguin, such as celestial spi'rits may bleed,  
And all his armour stain'd ere while so bright.  
Forthwith on all sides to his aid was run 335  
By angels many' and strong, who interpos'd  
Defense, while others bore him on their shields  
Back to his chariot, where it stood retir'd  
From off the files of war; there they him laid  
Gnashing for anguish and despite and shame, 340  
To find himself not matchless, and his pride  
Humbled by such rebuke, so far beneath  
His confidence to equal God in power.  
Yet soon he heal'd; for spi'rits that live throughout  
Vital in every part, not as frail man 345  
In entrails, heart or head, liver or reins,  
Cannot but by annihilating die;  
Nor in their liquid texture mortal wound  
Receive, no more than can the fluid air :



All heart they live, all head, all eye, all ear, 350  
All intellect, all sense; and as they please,  
They limb themselves, and color, shape or size  
Assume, as likes them best, condense or rare.

Mean while in other parts like deeds deserv'd  
Memorial, where the might of Gabriel fought, 355  
And with fierce ensigns pierc'd the deep array  
Of Moloch furious king; who him defy'd,  
And at his chariot wheels to drag him bound  
Threaten'd, nor from the Holy One of Heav'n  
Refrain'd his tongue blasphemous; but anon 360  
Down cloven to the waste, with shatter'd arms  
And uncouth pain fled bellowing. On each wing  
Uriel and Raphaël his vaunting foe,  
Though huge, and in a rock of diamond arm'd,  
Vanquish'd Adramelech and Asmadai, 365  
Two potent thrones, that to be less than gods  
Disdain'd, but meaner thoughts learn'd in their flight,  
Mangled with ghastly woundsthrough plate and mail.  
Nor stood unmindful Abdiel to annoy  
The athiest crew, but with redoubled blow 370  
Ariel and Arioch, and the violence  
Of Ramiel scorch'd and blasted overthrew.  
I might relate of thousands, and their names  
Eternize here on Earth; but those elect  
Angels, contented with their fame in Heav'n, 375  
Seek not the praise of men: the other sort,  
In might though wondrous and in acts of war,

Nor of renown less eager, yet by doom  
Cancel'd from Heav'n and sacred Memory,  
Nameless in dark Oblivion let them dwell. 380  
For strength from truth divided and from just,  
Illaudable, nought merits but dispraise  
And ignominy, yet to glory' aspires  
Vain-glorious, and through infamy seeks fame:  
Therefore eternal silence be their doom. 385

And now their mightiest quell'd, the battel swerv'd;  
With many an inroad gor'd; deformed Rout  
Enter'd, and foul Disorder; all the ground  
With shiver'd armour strown, and on a heap  
Chariot and charioteer lay overturn'd, 390  
And fiery foaming steeds; what flood, recoil'd  
O'er-wearied, through the faint Satanic host  
Defensive scarce, or with pale Fear surpris'd,  
Then first with fear surpris'd and sense of pain  
Fled ignominious, to such evil brought 395  
By sin of disobedience, till that hour  
Not liable to fear or flight or pain.  
Far otherwise th' inviolable saints  
In cubic phalanx firm advanc'd entire,  
Invulnerable, impenetrably arm'd; 400  
Such high advantages their innocence  
Gave them above their foes; not to have sinn'd,  
Not to have disobey'd; in fight they stood  
Unwearied, unobnoxious to be pain'd 404  
Bywound, though from their place by violence mov'd.

Now Night her course began, and over Heav'n  
Inducing darkness, grateful truce impos'd,  
And silence on the odious din of War:  
Under her cloudy covert both retir'd,  
Victor and vanquish'd: on the foughten field 410  
Michael and his angels prevalent  
Incamping, plac'd in guard their watches round,  
Cherubic waving fires: on th' other part  
Satan with his rebellious disappear'd,  
Far in the dark dislodg'd: and void of rest, 415  
His Potentates to council call'd by night;  
And in the midst thus undismay'd began.

O now in danger try'd, now known in arms  
Not to be overpower'd, Companions dear,  
Found worthy not of liberty alone, 420  
Too mean pretence, but what we more affect,  
Honor, dominion, glory and renown;  
Who have sustain'd one day in doubtful fight  
(And if one day, why not eternal days?)  
What Heaven's Lord had powerfulest to send 425  
Against us from about his throne, and judg'd  
Sufficient to subdue us to his will,  
But proves not so: then fallible, it seems,  
Of future we may deem him, though till now  
Omniscient thought. True is, less firmly arm'd, 430  
Some disadvantage we indur'd and pain,  
Till now not known, but known as soon contemn'd;  
Since now we find this our empyreal form

Incapable of mortal injury,  
Imperishable, and though pierc'd with wound, 435  
Soon closing, and by native vigor heal'd.

Of evil then so small as easy think  
The remedy; perhaps more valid arms,  
Weapons more violent, when next we meet,  
May serve to better us, and worse our foes, 440  
Of equal what between us made the odds,  
In nature none: if other hidden cause  
Left them superior, while we can preserve  
Unhurt our minds and understanding sound,  
Due search and consultation will disclose. 445

He sat; and in th' assembly next upstood  
Nifroch, of principalities the prime;  
As one he stood escap'd from cruel fight,  
Sore toil, his riven arms to havoc hewn,  
And cloudy in aspect thus answ'ring spake. 450  
Deliverer from new lords, leader to free  
Enjoyment of our right as gods; yet hard  
For gods, and too unequal work we find,  
Against unequal arms to fight in pain,  
Against unpain'd, impassive; from which evil 455  
Ruin must needs ensue; for what avails  
Valor or strength, though matchless, quell'd with pain  
Which all subdues, and makes remiss the hands  
Of mightiest? Sense of pleasure we may well  
Spare out of life perhaps, and not repine, 460  
But live content, which is the calmest life:

But pain is perfect misery, the worst  
Of evils, and excessive, overturns  
All patience. He who therefore can invent  
With what more forcible we may offend 465  
Our yet unwounded enemies, or arm  
Ourselves with like defense, to me deserves  
No less than for deliverance what we owe.

Whereto with look compos'd Satan reply'd.  
Not uninvented that, which thou aright 470  
Believ'st so main to our success, I bring.  
Which of us who beholds the bright surface  
Of this ethereous mold whereon we stand,  
This continent of spacious Heav'n, adorn'd  
With plant, fruit, flow'r ambrosial, gems and gold;  
Whose eye so superficially surveys 476  
These things, as not to mind from whence they grow  
Deep under ground, materials dark and crude,  
Of spiritous and fiery spume, till touch'd  
With Heav'n's ray, and temper'd they shoot forth  
So beauteous, op'ning to the ambient light? 481  
These in their dark nativity the deep  
Shall yield us pregnant with infernal flame;  
Which into hollow engins long and round  
Thick-ramm'd, at th' other bore with touch of fire  
Dilated and infuriate, shall send forth 486  
From far with thund'ring noise among our foes  
Such implements of mischief, as shall dash  
To pieces, and o'erwhelm whatever stands



Adverse, that they shall fear we have disarm'd 490  
The Thund'rer of his only dreaded bolt.

Nor long shall be our labor; yet ere dawn  
Effect shall end our wish. Mean while revive;  
Abandon fear; to strength and counsel join'd  
Think nothing hard, much less to be despair'd. 495

He ended, and his words their drooping cheer  
Inlighten'd, and their languish'd hope reviv'd.  
Th' invention all admir'd, and each, how he  
To be th' inventor miss'd; so easy' it seem'd 499  
Once found, which yet unfound most would have  
Impossible: yet haply of thy race [thought

In future days, if malice should abound,  
Some one, intent on mischief, or inspir'd  
With devilish machination, might devise  
Like instrument to plague the sons of men 505  
For sin, on war and mutual slaughter bent.

Forthwith from council to the work they flew;  
None arguing stood; innumerable hands  
Were ready; in a moment up they turn'd  
Wide the celestial soil, and saw beneath 510

Th' originals of Nature in their crude  
Conception; sulphurous and nitrous foam  
They found, they mingled, and with subtle art,  
Concocted and adusted they reduc'd  
To blackest grain, and into store convey'd: 515

Part hidden veins digg'd up (nor hath this earth  
Entrails unlike) of mineral and stone,

Whereof to found their engins and their balls  
Of missive ruin; part incentive reed  
Provide, pernicious with one touch to fire. 520  
So all ere day-spring, under conscious Night,  
Secret they finish'd, and in order set,  
With silent circumspection unesp'y'd.

Now when fair Morn orient in Heav'n appear'd,  
Up rose the victor angels, and to arms 525  
The matin trumpet sung: in arms they stood  
Of golden panoply, refulgent host,  
Soon banded; others from the dawning hills  
Look'd round, and scouts each coastlight-armed scour,  
Each quarter, to descry the distant foe. 530  
Where lodg'd, or whither fled, or if for fight,  
In motion or in halt: him soon they met  
Under spread ensigns moving nigh, in flow  
But firm battalion; back with speediest sail  
Zophiel, of cherubim the swiftest wing, 535  
Came fly'ing, and in mid air aloud thus cry'd.

Arm, Warriors, arm for fight; the foe at hand,  
Whom fled we thought, will save us long pursuit  
This day; fear not his flight; so thick a cloud  
He comes, and settled in his face I see 540  
Sad Resolution and secure: let each  
His adamantin coat gird well, and each  
Fit well his helm, gripe fast his orb'd shield,  
Borne ev'n or high; for this day will pour down,  
If I conjecture ought, no drizzling shower, 545

But rattling storm of arrows barb'd with fire.

So warn'd he them aware themselves, and soon  
In order, quit of all impediment;

Instant without disturb they took alarm,  
And onward mov'd imbattel'd: when behold 550  
Not distant far with heavy pace the foe

Approaching gross and huge, in hollow cube  
Training his devilish enginry, impal'd  
On every side with shadowing squadrons deep,  
To hide the fraud. At interview both stood 555  
A while; but suddenly at head appear'd  
Satan, and thus was heard commanding loud.

Vanguard, to right and left the front unfold;  
That all may see who hate us, how we seek  
Peace and composure, and with open breast 560  
Stand ready to receive them, if they like  
Our overture, and turn not back perverse;  
But that I doubt; however witness Heav'n,  
Heav'n witness thou anon, while we discharge  
Freely our part; ye who appointed stand, 565  
Do as you have in charge, and briefly touch  
What we propound, and loud that all may hear.

So scoffing in ambiguous words, he scarce  
Had ended; when to right and left the front  
Divided, and to either flank retir'd: 570  
Which to our eyes discover'd, new and strange,  
A triple mounted row of pillars laid  
On wheels (for like to pillars most they seem'd,

Or hollow'd bodies made of oak or fir,  
With branches lopt, in wood or mountain fell'd) 575  
Brass, iron, stony mold, had not their mouths  
With hideous orifice gap'd on us wide,  
Portending hollow truce: at each behind  
A seraph stood, and in his hand a reed  
Stood waving tipt with fire; while we suspense 580  
Collected stood within our thoughts amus'd,  
Not long, for sudden all at once their reeds  
Put forth, and to a narrow vent apply'd  
With nicest touch. Immediate in a flame, 584  
But soon obscur'd with smoke, all Heav'n appear'd,  
From those deep-throated engins belch'd, whose roar  
Imbowel'd with outrageous noise the Air,  
And all her entrails tore, disgorging foul  
Their devilish glut, chain'd thunderbolts and hail  
Of iron globes; which on the victor host 590  
Level'd, with such impetuous fury smote,  
That whom they hit, none on their feet might stand,  
Though standing else as rocks, but down they fell  
By thousands, angel on arch-angel roll'd;  
The sooner for their arms; unarm'd they might 595  
Have easily as spi'rits evaded swift  
By quick contraction or remove; but now  
Foul dissipation follow'd and forc'd rout;  
Nor serv'd it to relax their ferried files.  
What should they do? If on they rush'd, repulse 600  
Repeated, and indecent overthrow

Doubled, would render them yet more despis'd,  
And to their foes a laughter; for in view  
Stood rank'd of seraphim another row,  
In posture to displode their second tire 605  
Of thunder: back defeated to return  
They worse abhorr'd. Satan beheld their plight,  
And to his mates thus in derision call'd.

• Friends, why come not on these victors proud?  
Ere while they fierce were coming; and when we,  
To entertain them fair with open front 611  
And breast (what could we more?) propounded terms  
Of composition, strait they chang'd their minds,  
Flew off, and into strange vagaries fell,  
As they would dance; yet for a dance they seem'd.  
Somewhat extravagant and wild, perhaps 616  
For joy of offer'd peace: but I suppose,  
If our proposals once again were heard,  
We should compel them to a quick result.

To whom thus Belial in like gamefome mood. 620  
Leader, the terms we sent were terms of weight,  
Of hard contents, and full of force urg'd home,  
Such as we might perceive amus'd them all,  
And stumbled many; who receives them right,  
Had need from head to foot well understand; 625  
Not understood, this gift they have besides,  
They show us when our foes walk not upright.

So they among themselves in pleasant vein  
Stood scoffing, highten'd in their thoughts beyond



All doubt of victory; Eternal Might 630  
To match with their inventions they presum'd  
So easy', and of his thunder made a scorn,  
And all his host derided, while they stood  
A while in trouble: but they stood not long;  
Rage prompted them at length, and found them arms  
Against such hellish mischief fit to' oppose. 636  
Forthwith (behold the excellence, the power,  
Which God hath in his mighty angels plac'd)  
Their arms away they threw, and to the hills  
(For Earth hath this variety from Heav'n 640  
Of pleasure situate in hill and dale)  
Light as the lightning glimpse they ran, they flew;  
From their foundations loosning to and fro  
They pluck'd the seated hills with all their load,  
Rocks, waters, woods, and by the shaggy tops 645  
Up-lifting bore them in their hands: amaze,  
Be sure, and terror seiz'd the rebel host,  
When coming towards them so dread they saw  
The bottom of the mountains upward turn'd;  
Till on those cursed engines' triple-row 650  
They saw them whelm'd, and all their confidence  
Under the weight of mountains buried deep;  
Themselves invaded next, and on their heads  
Main promontories flung, which in the air 654  
Came shadowing, and oppress'd whole legions arm'd;  
Their armour help'd their harm, crush'd in and bruis'd  
Into their substance pent, which wrought them pain

Implacable, and many a dolorous groan,  
Long struggling underneath, ere they could wind  
Out of such pris'n, though spi'rits of purest light,  
Purest at first, now gross by sinning grown. 661

The rest in imitation to like arms

Betook them, and the neighb'ring hills uptore;  
So hills amid the air encounter'd hills

Har'd to and fro with jaculation dire, 665

That under ground they fought in dismal shade;

Infernal noise; war seem'd a civil game

To this uproar; horrid confusion heap'd

Upon confusion rose: and now all Heav'n

Had gone to wrack, with ruin overspread; 670

Had not th' almighty Father, where he sits

Shrin'd in his sanctuary of Heav'n secure,

Consulting on the sum of things, foreseen

This tumult, and permitted all, advis'd:

That his great purpose he might so fulfil, 675

To honor his anointed Son aveng'd

Upon his enemies, and to declare

All power on him transferr'd: whence to his Son

Th' assessor of his throne he thus began.

Effulgence of my glory, Son belov'd, 680

Son in whose face invisible is beheld

Visibly, what by Deity I am,

And in whose hand what by decree I do,

Second Omnipotence, two days are past,

Two days, as we compute the days of Heav'n, 685

Since Michael and his powers went forth to tame  
These disobedient: fore hath been their fight,  
As likeliest was, when two such foes met arm'd;  
For to themselves I left them, and thou know'st,  
Equal in their creation they were form'd, 690  
Save what sin hath impair'd, which yet hath wrought  
Insensibly, for I suspend their doom;  
Whence in perpetual fight they needs must last  
Endless, and no solution will be found:  
War wearied hath perform'd what War can do, 695  
And to disorder'd Rage let loose the reins,  
With mountains as with weapons arm'd, which makes  
Wild work in Heav'n, and dange'rous to the main.  
Two days are therefore past, the third is thine;  
For thee I have ordain'd it, and thus far 700  
Have suffer'd, that the glory may be thine  
Of ending this great war, since none but thou  
Can end it. Into thee such virtue and grace  
Immenſe I have transfus'd, that all may know  
In Heav'n and Hell thy power above compare; 705  
And this perverse commotion govern'd thus,  
To manifest thee worthiest to be heir  
Of all things, to be heir and to be king  
By sacred unction, thy deserved right.  
Go then thou Mightiest in thy Father's might, 710  
Ascend my chariot, guide the rapid wheels  
That shake Heav'n's basis, bring forth all my war,  
My bow and thunder, my almighty arms,

Gird on, and sword upon thy puissant thigh ;  
Pursue these sons of Darkness, drive them out 715  
From all Heav'n's bounds into the utter Deep :  
There let them learn, as likes them, to despise  
God and Messiah his anointed king.

He said, and on his Son with rays direct  
Shone full ; he all his Father full express'd 720  
Ineffably into his face receiv'd ;  
And thus the filial Godhead answer'ing spake.

O Father, O Supreme of heav'nly thrones,  
First, Highest, Holiest, Best, thou always seek'st  
To glorify thy Son, I always thee, 725  
As is most just ; this I my glory' account,  
My exaltation, and my whole delight,  
That thou in me well pleas'd, declar'st thy will  
Fulfill'd, which to fulfil is all my bliss.  
Scepter and power, thy giving, I assume, 730  
And gladlier shall resign, when in the end  
Thou shalt be all in all, and I in thee  
For ever, and in me all whom thou lov'st :  
But whom thou hat'st I hate, and can put on  
Thy terrors, as I put thy mildness on, 735  
Image of thee in all things ; and shall soon,  
Arm'd with thy might, rid Heav'n of these rebell'd,  
To their prepar'd ill mansion driven down,  
To chains of darkness, and th' undying worm,  
That from thy just obedience could revolt, 740  
Whom to obey is happiness entire.

'Then shall thy saints unmix'd, and from th' impure  
Far separate, circling thy holy Mount  
Unfeigned halleluiahs to thee sing,  
Hymns of high praise, and I among them chief. 745

So said, he o'er his scepter bowing, rose  
From the right hand of Glory where he sat;  
And the third sacred morn began to shine,  
Dawning thro' Heav'n: forth rush'd with whirlwind  
The chariot of paternal Deity, [sound  
Flashing thick flames, wheel within wheel undrawn,  
Itself instinct with spirit, but convoy'd 752  
By four cherubic shapes; four faces each  
Had wondrous; as with stars their bodies all  
And wings were set with eyes, with eyes the wheels  
Of beril, and carreering fires between; 756  
Over their heads a crystal firmament,  
Whereon a saphir throne, inlaid with pure  
Amber, and colors of the show'ry arch.  
He in celestial panoply all arm'd 760  
Of radiant Urim, work divinely wrought,  
Ascended; at his right hand Victory  
Sat eagle-wing'd; beside him hung his bow  
And quiver with three-bolted thunder stor'd,  
And from about him fierce effusion roll'd 765  
Of smoke and bickering flame and sparkles dire:  
Attended with ten thousand thousand saints,  
He onward came, far off his coming shone;  
And twenty thousand (I their number heard)



Chariots of God, half on each hand were seen: 770  
He on the wings of cherub rode sublime  
On the cryſtallin ſky, in ſaphir thron'd,  
Illuſtrious far and wide, but by his own  
Firſt ſeen; them unexpected joy ſurpris'd,  
When the great enſign of Meſſiah blaz'd 775  
Aloft by angels borne, his ſign in Heav'n;  
Under whoſe conduct Michael ſoon reduc'd  
His army, circumfus'd on either wing,  
Under their head imbodied all in one.  
Before him Power Divine his way prepar'd; 780  
At his command th' uprooted hills retir'd  
Each to his place; they heard his voice and went  
Obſequious; Heav'n his wonted face renew'd,  
And with freſh flow'rets hill and valley ſmil'd.  
This ſaw his hapleſs foes but ſtood obdur'd, 785  
And to rebellious fight rallied their powers  
Inſenſate, hope conceiving from deſpair.  
In heav'nly ſpi'rits could ſuch perverſeneſs dwell?  
But to convince the proud what ſigns avail,  
Or wonders move th' obdurate to relent? 790  
They harden'd more by what might moſt reclame,  
Grieving to ſee his glory, at the fight  
Took envy; and aſpiring to his highth,  
Stood reſiſtless fierce, by force or fraud  
Weening to proſper, and at length prevail 795  
Againſt God and Meſſiah, or to fall  
In univerſal ruin laſt; and now

To final battel drew, disdaining flight,  
Or faint retreat; when the great Son of God  
To all his host on either hand thus spake. 800

Stand still in bright array, ye Saints; here stand  
Ye Angels arm'd; this day from battel rest;  
Faithful hath been your warfare, and of God  
Accepted, fearless in his righteous cause,  
And as ye have receiv'd, so have ye done 805

Invincibly; but of this cursed crew  
The punishment to other hand belongs;  
Vengeance is his, or whose he sole appoints:  
Number to this day's work is not ordain'd  
Nor multitude; stand only and behold 810

God's indignation on these godless pour'd  
By me; not you but me they have despis'd,  
Yet envied; against me is all their rage,  
Because the Father, to' whom in Heav'n supreme  
Kingdom and power and glory appertains, 815  
Hath honor'd me according to his will.

Therefore to me their doom he hath assign'd;  
That they may have their wish, to try with me  
In battel which the stronger proves, they all,  
Or I alone against them, since by strength 820  
They measure all, of other excellence

Not emulous, nor care who them excels;  
Nor other strife with them do I vouchsafe.

So spake the Son, and into terror chang'd  
His count'nance too severe to be beheld, 825

And full of wrath bent on his enemies.  
At once the Four spread out their starry wings  
With dreadful shade contiguous, and the orbs  
Of his fierce chariot roll'd, as with the sound  
Of torrent floods, or of a numerous host. 830  
He on his impious foes right onward drove,  
Gloomy as Night; under his burning wheels  
The steadfast empyrean shook throughout,  
All but the throne itself of God. Full soon  
Among them he arriv'd, in his right hand 835  
Grasping ten thousand thunders, which he sent  
Before him, such as in their souls infix'd  
Plagues; they astonish'd all resistance lost,  
All courage; down their idle weapons dropt;  
O'er shields and helms and helmed heads he rode  
Of thrones and mighty seraphim prostrate, 841  
That wish'd the mountains now might be again  
Thrown on them as a shelter from his ire.  
Nor less on either side tempestuous fell  
His arrows, from the fourfold-visag'd Four 845  
Distinct with eyes, and from the living wheels  
Distinct alike with multitude of eyes;  
One spirit in them rul'd, and every eye  
Glar'd lightning, and shot forth pernicious fire  
Among th' accurs'd, that wither'd all their strength,  
And of their wonted vigor left them drain'd, 852  
Exhausted, spiritless, afflicted, fall'n.  
Yet half his strength he put not forth, but check'd

His thunder in mid voly; for he meant  
Not to destroy, but root them out of Heav'n: 855  
The overthrown he rais'd, and as a herd  
Of goats or timorous flock together throng'd  
Drove them before him thunder-struck, pursued  
With terrors and with furies to the bounds  
And crystal wall of Heav'n, which opening wide,  
Roll'd inward, and a spacious gap disclos'd 861  
Into the wasteful Deep; the monstrous sight  
Struck them with horror backward, but far worse  
Urg'd them behind; headlong themselves they threw  
Down from the verge of Heav'n; eternal Wrath 865  
Burnt after them to the bottomless Pit.

Hell heard th' unsufferable noise, Hell saw  
Heav'n ruining from Heav'n, and would have fled  
Affrighted; but strict Fate had cast too deep  
Her dark foundations, and too fast had bound. 870  
Nine days they fell; confounded Chaos roar'd,  
And felt tenfold confusion in their fall  
Through his wild anarchy, so huge a rout  
Incumber'd him with ruin: Hell at last  
Yawning receiv'd them whole, and on them clos'd;  
Hell their fit habitation fraught with fire 876  
Unquenchable, the house of woe and pain.  
Disburden'd Heav'n rejoic'd, and soon repair'd  
Her mural breach, returning whence it roll'd.  
Sole victor from th' expulsion of his foes 880  
Messiah his triumphal chariot turn'd;

To meet him all his saints, who silent stood  
Eye-witnesſes of his almighty acts,  
With jubilee advanc'd; and as they went,  
Shaded with branching palm, each order bright, 885  
Sung triumph, and him ſung victorious King,  
Son, Heir, and Lord, to him dominion given,  
Worthieſt to reign: he celebrated rode  
Triumphant through mid Heav'n, into the courts  
And temple of his mighty Father thron'd 890  
On high; who into glory him receiv'd,  
Where now he ſits at the right hand of Blifs.

Thus meaſuring things in Heav'n by things on Earth,  
At thy request, and that thou may'ſt beware  
By what is paſt, to thee I have reveal'd 895  
What might have elſe to human race been hid;  
The diſcord which beſel, and war in Heav'n  
Among th' angelic powers, and the deep fall  
Of thoſe too high aſpiring, who rebell'd  
With Satan; he who envies now thy ſtate, 900  
Who now is plotting how he may ſeduce  
Thee alſo from obedience, that with him  
Bereav'd of happineſs thou may'ſt partake  
His puniſhment, eternal miſery;  
Which would be all his ſolace and revenge, 905  
As a deſpite done againſt the Moſt High,  
Thee once to gain companion of his woe.  
But liſten not to his temptations, warn  
Thy weaker; let it profit thee to' have heard



By terrible example the reward 910

Of disobedience; firm they might have stood,

Yet fell; remember, and fear to transgress. 912

*The End of the Sixth Book.*

# PARADISE LOST.

## BOOK VII.

### The Argument.

Raphael at the request of Adam relates how and wherefore this world was first created; that God, after the expelling of Satan and his angels out of Heaven, declared his pleasure to create another world and other creatures to dwell therein; sends his Son with glory and attendance of angels to perform the work of creation in six days: the angels celebrate with hymns the performance thereof, and his reascension into Heaven.

DESCEND from Heav'n, Urania, by that name  
If rightly thou art call'd, whose voice divine  
Following, above th' Olympian hill I soar,  
Above the flight of Pegasean wing.  
The meaning, not the name I call: for thou 5  
Nor of the Muses nine, nor on the top  
Of old Olympus dwell'st, but heav'nly born,  
Before the hills appear'd, or fountain flow'd,  
Thou with eternal Wisdom didst converse,  
Wisdom thy sister, and with her didst play 10  
In presence of th' almighty Father, pleas'd  
With thy celestial song. Up led by thee  
Into the Heav'n of Heav'ns, I have presum'd,  
An earthly guest, and drawn empyreal air,  
Thy temp'ring; with like safety guided down 15  
Return me to my native element:  
Lest from this flying steed unrein'd, (as once

Bellerophon, though from a lower clime)  
Dismounted, on th' Aleian field I fall  
Erroneous there to wander and forlorn. 20  
Half yet remains un Sung, but narrower bound  
Within the visible diurnal sphere;  
Standing on Earth, not rapt above the pole,  
More safe I sing with mortal voice, unchang'd  
To hoarse or mute, though fall'n on evil days, 25  
On evil days though fall'n, and evil tongues;  
In darkness, and with dangers compass'd round,  
And solitude; yet not alone, while thou  
Visit'st my slumbers nightly, or when Morn  
Purples the East: still govern thou my song, 30  
Urania, and fit audience find, though few,  
But drive far off the barbarous dissonance  
Of Bacchus and his revelers, the race  
Of that wild rout that tore the Thracian bard  
In Rhodope, where woods and rocks had ears 35  
To rapture, till the savage clamor drown'd  
Both harp and voice; nor could the Muse defend  
Her son. So fail not thou, who thee implores:  
For thou art heav'nly, she an empty dream.  
Say Goddess, what ensued when Raphaël, 40  
The affable arch-angel, had forewarn'd  
Adam by dire example to beware  
Apostasy, by what befall in Heav'n  
To those apostates, lest the like befall  
In Paradise to Adam or his race, 45

Charg'd not to touch the interdicted Tree,  
If they transgress, and slight that sole command,  
So easily obey'd amid the choice  
Of all tastes else to please their appetite,  
Though wand'ring. He with his consoled Eve 50  
The story heard attentive, and was fill'd  
With admiration, and deep muse, to hear  
Of things so high and strange, things to their thought  
So unimaginable as hate in Heav'n,  
And war so near the peace of God in bliss 55  
With such confusion: but the evil soon  
Driv'n back redounded as a flood on those  
From whom it sprung, impossible to mix  
With blessedness. Whence Adam soon repeal'd  
The doubts that in his heart arose: and now 60  
Led on, yet sinless, with desire to know  
What nearer might concern him, how this world  
Of Heav'n and Earth conspicuous first began,  
When, and whereof created, for what cause,  
What within Eden or without was done 65  
Before his memory, as one whose drouth  
Yet scarce allay'd still eyes the current stream,  
Whose liquid murmur heard new thirst excites,  
Proceeded thus to ask his heav'nly guest.

Great things, and full of wonder in our ears, 70  
Far differing from this world, thou hast reveal'd,  
Divine Interpreter, by favor sent  
Down from the empyrean to forewarn

Us timely' of what might else have been our loss,  
Unknown, which human knowledge could not reach:  
For which to th' infinitely Good we owe 76  
Immortal thanks, and his admonishment  
Receive with solemn purpose to observe  
Immutably his sovran will, the end  
Of what we are. But since thou hast vouchsaf'd 80  
Gently for our instruction to impart  
Things above earthly thought, which yet concern'd  
Our knowing, as to highest Wisdom seem'd,  
Deign to descend now lower, and relate  
What may no less perhaps avail us known, 85  
How first began this Heav'n which we behold  
Distant so high, with moving fires adorn'd  
Innumerable, and this which yields or fills  
All space, the ambient air wide interfus'd  
Embracing round this florid Earth, what cause 90  
Mov'd the Creator in his holy rest  
Through all eternity so late to build  
In Chaos, and the work begun, how soon  
Absolv'd, if unforbid thou may'st unfold  
What we, not to explore the secrets ask 95  
Of his eternal empire, but the more  
To magnify his works, the more we know.  
And the great Light of day yet wants to run  
Much of his race though steep; suspense in Heav'n,  
Held by thy voice, thy potent voice, he hears, 100  
And longer will delay to hear thee tell



His generation, and the rising birth  
Of Nature from the unapparent Deep:  
Or if the star of evening and the moon  
Haste to thy audience, Night with her will bring 105  
Silence, and Sleep list'ning to thee will watch,  
Or we can bid his absence, till thy song  
End, and dismiss thee ere the morning shine.

Thus Adam his illustrious guest besought:  
And thus the godlike angel answer'd mild. 110  
This also thy request with caution ask'd  
Obtain: though to recount almighty works  
What words or tongue of seraph can suffice,  
Or heart of man suffice to comprehend?  
Yet what thou canst attain, which best may serve 115  
To glorify the Maker, and infer  
Thee also happier, shall not be withheld  
Thy hearing, such commission from above  
I have receiv'd, to answer thy desire  
Of knowledge within bounds; beyond abstain 120  
To ask, nor let thine own inventions hope  
Things not reveal'd, which th' invisable King,  
Only omniscient, hath suppress'd in night,  
To none communicable in Earth or Heav'n:  
Enough is left besides to search and know. 125  
But knowledge is as food, and needs no less  
Her temp'rance over appetite, to know  
In measure what the mind may well contain;  
Oppresses else with surfeit, and soon turns

Wisdom to folly', as nourishment to wind. 130

Know then, that after Lucifer from Heav'n  
(So call him, brighter once amidst the host  
Of angels than that star the stars among)  
Fell with his flaming legions through the Deep  
Into his place, and the great Son return'd 135  
Victorious with his saints, th' omnipotent  
Eternal Father from his throne beheld  
Their multitude, and to his Son thus spake.

At least our envious Foe hath fail'd, who thought  
All like himself rebellious, by whose aid 140  
This inaccessible high strength, the seat  
Of Deity supreme, us dispossest'd,  
He trusted to have seist'd, and into fraud  
Drew many, whom their place knows here no more;  
Yet far the greater part have kept, I see, 145  
Their station, Heav'n yet populous retains  
Number sufficient to possess her realms  
Though wide, and this high temple to frequent  
With ministeries due and solemn rites:  
But lest his heart exalt him in the harm 150  
Already done, to have dispeopled Heav'n,  
My damage fondly deem'd, I can repair  
That detriment, if such it be to lose  
Self-lost, and in a moment will create  
Another world, out of one Man a race 155  
Of men innumerable, there to dwell,  
Not here, till by degrees of merit rais'd

They open to themselves at length the way  
Up hither, under long obedience try'd,  
And Earth bechang'd to Heav'n, and Heav'n to Earth,  
One kingdom, joy and union without end. 161  
Mean while inhabit lax, ye Powers of Heav'n,  
And thou my Word, begotten Son, by thee  
This I perform; speak thou, and be it done:  
My overshadowing Spi'rit and might with thee 165  
I send along; ride forth, and bid the Deep  
Within appointed bounds be Heav'n and Earth,  
Boundless the Deep, because I Am who fill  
Infinitude, nor vacuous the space.  
Though I uncircumscrib'd myself retire, 170  
And put not forth my goodness which is free  
To act or not, Necessity and Chance  
Approach not me, and what I will is fate.  
So spake th' Almighty, and to what he spake  
His Word, the filial Godhead, gave effect. 175  
Immediate are the acts of God, more swift  
Than time or motion, but to human ears  
Cannot without process of speech be told,  
So told as earthly notion can receive.  
Great triumph and rejoicing was in Heav'n, 180  
When such was heard declar'd th' Almighty's will;  
Glory they sung to the Most High, good will  
To future men, and in their dwellings peace:  
Glory to him, whose just avenging ire  
Had driven out th' ungodly from his sight 185

And th' habitations of the just; to him  
Glory and praise, whose wisdom had ordain'd  
Good out of evil to create, instead  
Of spi'rits malign a better race to bring  
Into their vacant room, and thence diffuse 190  
His good to worlds and ages infinite.

So sang the hierarchies: mean while the Son  
On his great expedition now appear'd,  
Girt with omnipotence, with radiance crown'd  
Of majesty divine; sapience and love 195  
Immense, and all his Father in him shone.  
About his chariot numberless were pour'd  
Cherub and seraph, potentates and thrones,  
And virtues, winged spi'rits, and chariots wing'd  
From th' armoury of God, where stand of old 200  
Myriads between two brazen mountains lodg'd  
Against a solemn day, harness'd at hand,  
Celestial equipage; and now came forth  
Spontaneous, for within them spirit liv'd,  
Attendent on their Lord: Heav'n open'd wide 205  
Her ever-during gates, harmonious sound  
On golden hinges moving, to let forth  
The King of Glory in his powerful Word  
And Spirit coming to create new worlds. 209  
On heav'nly ground they stood, and from the shore  
They view'd the vast immeasurable abyss  
Outrageous as a sea, dark, wasteful, wild,  
Up from the bottom turn'd by furious winds

And surging waves, as mountains, to assault 214  
Heav'n's highth, and with the center mix the pole.

Silence, ye troubled Waves, and thou Deep, peace,  
Said then th' omnific Word, your discord end :

Nor stay'd, but on the wings of cherubim

Uplifted, in paternal glory rode

Far into Chaos, and the world unborn; 220

For Chaos heard his voice : him all his train

Follow'd in bright procession to behold

Creation, and the wonders of his might.

Then stay'd the fervid wheels, and in his hand

He took the golden compasses, prepar'd 225

In God's eternal store, to circumscribe

This universe, and all created things :

One foot he center'd, and the other turn'd

Round through the vast profundity obscure,

And said, Thus far extend, thus far thy bounds, 230

This be thy just circumference, O World.

Thus God the Heav'n created, thus the Earth,

Matter unform'd and void : darkness profound

Cover'd th' abyfs : but on the watry calm

His brooding wings th' Spi'rit of God outspread, 235

And vital virtue' infus'd, and vital warmth

Throughout the fluid mass, but downward purg'd

The black tartareous cold infernal dregs

Adverse to life : then founded, then conglob'd

Like things to like, the rest to several place 240

Disparted, and between spun out the air,



And Earth self-balanc'd on her center hung.

Let there be light, said God, and forthwith Light  
Ethereal, first of things, quintessence pure,  
Sprung from the Deep, and from her native East 245  
To journey through the aery gloom began,  
Spher'd in a radiant cloud, for yet the sun

Was not; she in a cloudy tabernacle  
Sojourn'd the while. God saw the light was good;

And light from darkness by the hemisphere 250

Divided: light the Day, and darkness Night  
He nam'd. Thus was the first day ev'n and morn:

Nor past uncelebrated, nor un Sung

By the celestial quires, when orient light

Exhaling first from darkness they beheld; 255

Birth-day of Heav'n and Earth; with joy and shout

The hollow universal orb they fill'd,

And touch'd their golden harps, and hymning prais'd

God and his works, Creator him they sung,

Both when first evening was and when first morn.

Again, God said, Let there be firmament 261

Amid the waters, and let it divide

The waters from the waters: and God made

The firmament, expanse of liquid, pure,

Transparent, elemental air, diffus'd 265

In circuit to the uttermost convex

Of this great round: partition firm and sure,

The waters underneath from those above

Dividing: for as Earth, so he the world

Built on circumfluous waters calm, in wide 270  
Crystallin ocean, and the loud misrule  
Of Chaos far remov'd, lest fierce extremes  
Contiguous might distemper the whole frame :  
And Heav'n he nam'd the Firmament : so even  
And morning chorus sung the second day. 275

The Earth was form'd, but in the womb as yet  
Waters, embryo immature involv'd,  
Appear'd not : over all the face of Earth  
Main ocean flow'd, not idle, but with warm  
Prolific humor soft'ning all her globe, 280  
Fermented the great mother to conceive,  
Sate with genial moisture, when God said,  
Be gather'd now ye waters under Heav'n  
Into one place, and let dry land appear.  
Immediately the mountains huge appear 285  
Emergent, and their broad bare backs upheave  
Into the clouds, their tops ascend the sky :  
So high as heav'd the tumid hills, so low  
Down sunk a hollow bottom broad and deep,  
Capacious bed of waters : thither they 290  
Hasted with glad precipitance, uproll'd  
As drops on dust conglobing from the dry ;  
Part rise in crystal wall, or ridge direct,  
For haste ; such flight the great command impress'd  
On the swift floods : as armies at the call 295  
Of trumpet (for of armies thou hast heard)  
Troop to their standard, so the watry throng,

Wave rolling after wave, where way they found,  
If steep, with torrent rapture, if through plain,  
Soft-ebbing; nor withstood them rock or hill, 300  
But they, or under ground, or circuit wide  
With serpent error wand'ring, found their way,  
And on the washy ooze deep channels wore;  
Easy, ere God had bid the ground be dry,  
All but within those banks, where rivers now  
Stream, and perpetual draw their humid train. 305  
The dry land Earth, and the great receptacle  
Of congregated waters he call'd Seas;  
And saw that it was good, and said, Let th' Earth  
Put forth the verdant grafs, herb yielding seed, 310  
And fruit-tree yielding fruit after her kind,  
Whose seed is in herself upon the Earth.  
He scarce had said, when the bare Earth, till then  
Desert and bare, unsightly, unadorn'd,  
Brought forth the tender grafs, whose verdure clad 315  
Her universal face with pleasant green,  
Then herbs of every leaf, that sudden flower'd,  
Opening their various colors, and made gay  
Her bosom smelling sweet: and these scarce blown  
Forth flourish'd thick the clustring vine, forth crept 320  
The smelling gourd, up stood the corny reed  
Imbattel'd in her field, and th' humble shrub,  
And hush with frizled hair implicit: last  
Rose as in dance the stately trees, and spread 325  
Their branches hung with copious fruit, or gemm'd

Their bleſſoms: with high wood the hills were crown'd,  
With tufts the valleys, and each fountain ſide,  
With borders long the rivers: that Earth now  
Seem'd like to Heav'n, a ſeat where gods might dwell,  
Or wander with delight, and love to haunt 330  
Her ſacred ſhades: though God had yet not rain'd  
Upon the Earth, and man to till the ground  
None was, but from the Earth a dewy miſt  
Went up and water'd all the ground, and each  
Plant of the field, which ere it was in th' Earth 335  
God made, and every herb, before it grew  
On the green ſtem; God ſaw that it was good:  
So ev'n and morn recorded the third day.

Again th' Almighty ſpake, Let there be lights  
High in th' expanſe of Heaven to divide 340  
The day from night; and let them be for ſigns,  
For ſeaſons, and for days, and circling years,  
And let them be for lights as I ordain  
Their office in the firmament of Heav'n  
To give light on the Earth; and it was ſo. 345  
And God made two great lights, great for their uſe  
To man, the greater to have rule by day,  
The leſs by night altern; and made the ſtars,  
And ſet them in the firmament of Heav'n  
'To' illuminate the Earth, and rule the day 350  
In their viciffitude, and rule the night,  
And light from darkneſs to divide. God ſaw,  
Surveying his great work, that it was good:

For of celestial bodies first the sun  
A mighty sphere he fram'd, unlightsome first, 355  
Though of ethereal mold: then form'd the moon  
Globose, and every magnitude of stars,  
And sow'd with stars the Heav'n thick as a field:  
Of light by far the greater part he took,  
Transplanted from her cloudy shrine, and plac'd 360  
In the sun's orb, made porous to receive  
And drink the liquid light, firm to retain  
Her gather'd beams, great palace now of light.  
Hither as to their fountain other stars  
Repairing, in their golden urns draw light, 365  
And hence the morning planet gilds her horns;  
By tincture or reflection they augment  
Their small peculiar, though from human sight  
So far remote, with diminution seen.  
First in his East the glorious lamp was seen, 370  
Regent of day, and all th' horizon round  
Invested with bright rays, jocond to run  
His longitude through Heav'n's high road; the gray  
Dawn, and the Pleiades before him danc'd  
Shedding sweet influence: less bright the moon 375  
But opposit in level'd West was set  
His mirror, with full face borrowing her light  
From him, for other light she needed none  
In that aspect, and still that distance keeps  
Till night, then in the East her turn she shines, 380  
Revolv'd on Heav'n's great axle, and her reign



With thousand lesser lights diuidual holds,  
With thousand thousand stars, that then appear'd  
Spangling the hemisphere : then first adorn'd  
With their bright luminaries that set and rose, 385  
Glad ev'ning and glad morn crown'd the fourth day.

And God said, Let the waters generate  
Reptil with spawn abundant, living soul :  
And let fowl fly above the Earth, with wings  
Display'd on th' open firmament of Heav'n. 390  
And God created the great whales, and each  
Soul living, each that crept, which plenteously  
The waters generated by their kinds,  
And every bird of wing after his kind,  
And saw that it was good, and bless'd them, saying,  
Be fruitful, multiply, and in the seas 396  
And lakes and running streams the waters fill,  
And let the fowl be multiply'd on th' Earth.  
Forthwith the founts and seas, each creek and bay  
With fry innumerable swarm, and shoals 400  
Of fish that with their fins and shining scales  
Glide under the green wave, in sculls that oft  
Bank the mid sea : part single or with mate  
Graze the sea-weed their pasture, and through groves  
Of coral stray, or sporting with quick glance 405  
Show to the sun their wav'd coats dropt with gold,  
Or in their pearly shells at ease, attend  
Moist nutriment, or under rocks their food  
In jointed armour watch : on smooth the seal,

And bended dolphins play : part huge of bulk 410  
Wallowing unwieldy', enormous in their gate  
Tempest the ocean : there leviathan,  
Hugest of living creatures, on the deep  
Stretch'd like a promontory sleeps or swims  
And seems a moving land, and at his gills 415  
Draws in, and at his trunk spouts out a sea.  
Mean while the tepid caves, and fens, and shores,  
Their brood as numerous hatch, from th' egg that soon  
Bursting with kindly rupture forth disclos'd  
Their callow young, but feather'd soon and fledg'd 420  
They summ'd their pens, and soaring th' air sublime  
With clang despis'd the ground, under a cloud  
In prospect ; there the eagle and the stork  
On cliffs and cedar tops their eyries build :  
Part loosely wing the region, part more wise 425  
In common, rang'd in figure wedge their way,  
Intelligent of seasons, and set forth  
Their aery caravan high over seas  
Flying, and over lands with mutual wing  
Easing their flight ; so steers the prudent crane 430  
Her annual voyage, borne on winds ; the air  
Flotes, as they pass, fann'd with unnumber'd plumes :  
From branch to branch the smaller birds with song  
Solac'd the woods, and spread their painted wings  
Till ev'n, nor then the solemn nightingale 435  
Ceas'd warbling, but all night tun'd her soft lays :  
Others on silver lakes and rivers bath'd

Their downy breast; the swan with arched neck  
Between her white wings mantling proudly, rows  
Her state with oary feet; yet oft they quit 440  
The dank, and rising on stiff pennons, tower  
The mid aerial sky: others on ground  
Walk'd firm; the crested cock whose clarion sounds  
The silent hours, and th' other whose gay train  
Adorns him, color'd with the florid hue 445  
Of rainbows and starry' eyes. The waters thus  
With fish replenish'd, and the air with fowl,  
Ev'ning and morn solemniz'd the fifth day.

The sixth, and of creation last arose  
With evening harps and matin, when God said, 450  
Let th' earth bring forth soul living in her kind,  
Cattel and creeping things, and beast of th' Earth,  
Each in their kind. The Earth obey'd, and strait  
Opening her fertile womb teem'd at a birth  
Innumerable living creatures, perfect forms, 455  
Limb'd and full grown: out of the ground up rose  
As from his lair the wild beast where he wons  
In forest wild, in thicket, brake, or den;  
Among the trees in pairs they rose, they walk'd:  
The cattel in the fields and meadows green; 460  
Those rare and solitary, these in flocks  
Pasturing at once, and in broad herds upsprung.  
The grassy clods now calv'd, now half appear'd  
The tawny lion, pawing to get free 464  
His hinder parts, then springs as broke from bonds,

And rampant shakes his brinded mane; the ounce,  
The libbard, and the tiger, as the mole  
Rising, the crumbled earth above them threw  
In hillocks: the swift stag from under ground 469  
Bore up his branching head: scarce from his mold  
Behemoth biggest born of Earth upheav'd  
His vastness: fleec'd the flocks and bleating rose,  
As plants: ambiguous between sea and land  
The river horse and scaly crocodile.

At once came forth whatever creeps the ground, 475  
Insect or worm: those wav'd their limber fans  
For wings, and smallest lineaments exact  
In all the liveries deck'd of Summer's pride  
With spots of gold and purple', azure and green:  
These as a line their long dimension drew, 480  
Streaking the ground with sinuous trace; not all  
Minims of Nature; some of serpent kind,  
Wondrous in length and corpulence, involv'd  
Their snaky folds, and added wings. First crept  
The parsimonious emmet, provident 485  
Of future, in small room large heart inclos'd,  
Pattern of just equality perhaps  
Hereafter, joined in her popular tribes  
Of commonalty: swarming next appear'd  
The female bee, that feeds her husband drone 490  
Deliciously, and builds her waxen cells  
With honey stor'd: the rest are numberless,  
And though their natures know't, and gav't them names,

Needless to thee repeated; nor unknown  
The serpent subtlest beast of all the field, 495  
Of huge extent sometimes, with brazen eyes  
And hairy mane terrific, though to thee  
Not noxious, but obedient at thy call.

Now Heav'n in all her glory shone, and roll'd  
Her motions, as the great first Mover's hand 500  
First wheel'd their course; Earth in her rich attire  
Consummate lovely smil'd; air, water, earth,  
By fowl, fish, beast, was flown, was swum, was walk'd  
Frequent; and of the sixth day yet remain'd;  
There wanted yet the master work, the end 505  
Of all yet done; a creature who not prone  
And brute as other creatures, but indued  
With sanctity of reason, might erect  
His stature, and upright with front serene  
Govern the rest, self-knowing, and from thence 510  
Magnanimous to correspond with Heav'n,  
But grateful to acknowledge whence his good  
Descends, thither with heart and voice and eyes  
Directed in devotion, to adore  
And worship God supreme, who made him chief 515  
Of all his works; therefore th' Omnipotent  
Eternal Father (for where is not he  
Present?) thus to his Son audibly spake.

Let us make now Man in our image, Man 520  
In our similitude, and let them rule  
Over the fish and fowl of sea and air,



Beast of the field, and over all the Earth,  
And every creeping thing that creeps the ground.  
This said, he form'd thee, Adam, thee, O Man,  
Dust of the ground, and in thy nostrils breath'd 525  
The breath of life; in his own image he  
Created thee, in the image of God  
Express, and thou becam'st a living soul.  
Male he created thee, but thy consort  
Female for race; then blest'd Mankind, and said,  
Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the Earth, 531  
Subdue it, and throughout dominion hold  
Over fish of the sea, and fowl of th' air,  
And every living thing that moves on th' Earth.  
Wherever thus created, for no place 535  
Is yet distinct by name, thence, as thou know'st,  
He brought thee into this delicious grove,  
This garden, planted with the trees of God,  
Delectable both to behold and taste;  
And freely all their pleasant fruit for food 540  
Gave thee; all sorts are here that all th' Earth yields  
Variety without end; but of the tree,  
Which tasted works knowledge of good and evil,  
Thou may'st not; in the day thou eat'st thou dy'st;  
Death is the penalty impos'd, beware, 545  
And govern well thy appetite, lest Sin  
Surprise thee, and her black attendant Death.

Here finish'd he, and all that he had made  
View'd, and behold all was entirely good;

So ev'n and morn accomplish'd the sixth day : 550  
Yet not till the Creator from his work  
Defisting, though unwearied, up return'd,  
Up to the Heav'n of Heav'ns his high abode,  
Thence to behold this new-created world,  
Th' addition of his empire, how it shew'd 555  
In prospect from his throne, how good, how fair,  
Answering his great idea. Up he rode  
Follow'd with acclamation and the sound  
Symphonious of ten thousand harps that tun'd  
Angelic harmonies: the Earth, the air 560  
Refounded, (thou remember'st, for thou heardest)  
The Heav'ns and all the constellations rung,  
The planets in their station list'ning stood,  
While the bright pomp ascended jubilant.  
Open, ye everlasting Gates, they sung, 565  
Open, ye Heav'ns, your living doors; let in  
The great Creator from his work return'd  
Magnificent, his six days' work, a World;  
Open, and henceforth oft; for God will deign  
To visit oft the dwellings of just Men 570  
Delighted, and with frequent intercourse  
Thither will send his winged messengers  
On errands of supernal grace. So sung  
The glorious train ascending; he through Heav'n,  
That open'd wide her blazing portals, led 575  
To God's eternal house direct the way,  
A broad and ample road, whose dust is gold

And pavement stars, as stars to thee appear,  
Seen in the galaxy, that milky way,  
Which nightly as a circling zone thou seest 580  
Powder'd with stars. And now on Earth the seventh  
Evening arose in Eden, for the sun  
Was set, and Twilight from the East came on,  
Forerunning Night; when at the holy mount  
Of Heav'n's high-seated top, th' imperial throne 585  
Of Godhead, fix'd for ever firm and sure,  
The filial Power arriv'd, and sat him down  
With his great Father, for he also went  
Invisible, yet stay'd, (such privilege  
Hath Omnipresence) and the work ordain'd, 590  
Author and end of all things, and from work  
Now resting, blest'd and hallow'd the sev'nth day,  
As resting on that day from all his work,  
But not in silence holy kept; the harp  
Had work and rested not, the solemn pipe, 595  
And dulcimer, all organs of sweet stop,  
All sounds on fret by string or golden wire  
'Temper'd soft tunings, intermix'd with voice  
Choral or unison: of incense clouds  
Fuming from golden censers hid the mount. 600  
Creation and the six days' acts they sung,  
Great are thy works, Jehovah, infinite  
Thy power; what thought can measure thee or tongue  
Relate thee? greater now in thy return  
Than from the giant angels; thee that day 605

Thy thunders magnify'd; but to create  
Is greater than created to destroy.  
Who can impair thee, mighty King, or bound  
Thy empire? easily the proud attempt  
Of spi'rits apostate and their counsels vain 610  
Thou hast repell'd, while impiously they thought  
Thee to diminish, and from thee withdraw  
The number of thy worshippers. Who seeks  
To lessen thee, against his purpose serves  
To manifest the more thy might: his evil 615  
Thou usest, and from thence creat'st more good.  
Witness this new-made World, another Heav'n  
From Heaven gate not far, founded in view  
On the clear hyaline, the glassy sea;  
Of amplitude almost immense, with stars 620  
Numerous, and every star perhaps a world  
Of destin'd habitation; but thou know'st  
Their seasons: among these the seat of men,  
Earth with her nether ocean circumfus'd, 624  
Their pleasing dwelling place. Thrice happy men,  
And sons of men, whom God hath thus advanc'd,  
Created in his image, there to dwell  
And worship him, and in reward to rule  
Over his works, on Earth, in sea, or air,  
And multiply a race of worshippers 630  
Holy and just: thrice happy if they know  
Their happiness, and persevere upright.  
So sung they, and the empyrean rung

With halleluiahs: thus was sabbath kept.  
And thy request think now fulfill'd, that ask'd 633  
How first this World and face of things began,  
And what before thy memory was done  
From the beginning, that posterity  
Inform'd by thee might know; if else thou seek'st  
Ought, not surpassing human measure, say. 640

*The End of the Seventh Book.*



# PARADISE LOST.

## BOOK VIII.

### The Argument.

Adam inquires concerning celestial motions, is doubtfully answer'd, and exhort'd to search rather things more worthy of knowledge: Adam assents, and still desirous to detain Raphael, relates to him what he remembered since his own creation, his placing in Paradise, his talk with God concerning solitude and fit society, his first meeting and nuptials with Eve, his discourse with the angel thereupon; who after admonitions repeated departs.

THE angel ended, and in Adam's ear  
So charming left his voice, that he a while  
Thought him still speaking, still stood fix'd to hear;  
Then as new wak'd thus gratefully reply'd.

What thanks sufficient, or what recompense      5  
Equal have I to render thee, divine  
Historian, who thus largely hast allay'd  
The thirst I had of knowledge, and vouchsaf'd  
This friendly condescension to relate  
Things else by me unsearchable, now heard      10  
With wonder, but delight, and, as is due,  
With glory attributed to the high  
Creator? something yet of doubt remains,  
Which only thy solution can resolve.  
When I behold this goodly frame, this world      15  
Of Heav'n and Earth consisting, and compute  
Their magnitudes, this Earth, a spot, a grain,

An atom, with the firmament compar'd  
And all her number'd stars, that seem to roll  
Spaces incomprehensible (for such 20  
Their distance argues and their swift return  
Diurnal) merely to officiate light  
Round this opacous Earth, this punctual spot,  
One day and night, in all their vast survey  
Useless besides; reasoning I oft admire, 25  
How Nature wise and frugal could commit  
Such disproportions, with superfluous hand  
So many nobler bodies to create,  
Greater so manifold to this one use,  
For ought appears, and on their orbs impose 30  
Such restless revolution day by day  
Repeated, while the sedentary Earth,  
That better might with far less compass move,  
Serv'd by more noble than herself, attains  
Her end without least motion, and receives, 35  
As tribute, such a sumless journey brought  
Of incorporeal speed, her warmth and light;  
Speed, to describe whose swiftness number fails.

So spake our Sire, and by his count'nance seem'd  
Entering on studious thoughts abstruse, which Eve 40  
Perceiving where she sat retir'd in sight,  
With lowliness majestic from her seat,  
And grace that won who saw to wish her stay,  
Rose, and went forth among her fruits and flowers,  
To visit how they prosper'd, bud and bloom, 45

Her nursery; they at her coming sprung,  
And touch'd by her fair tendence gladlier grew.  
Yet went she not, as not with such discourse  
Delighted, or not capable her ear  
Of what was high: such pleasure she reserv'd, 50  
Adam relating, she sole auditress;  
Her husband the relator she preferr'd  
Before the angel, and of him to ask  
Chose rather; he, she knew, would intermix  
Grateful digressions, and solve high dispute 55  
With conjugal caresses; from his lip  
Not words alone pleas'd her. O when meet now  
Such pairs, in love and mutual honour join'd?  
With goddess-like demeanour forth she went,  
Not unattended, for on her as queen 60  
A pomp of winning Graces waited still,  
And from about her shot darts of desire  
Into all eyes to wish her still in sight.  
And Raphael now to Adam's doubt propos'd  
Benevolent and facil thus reply'd. 65

To ask or search I blame thee not, for Heav'n  
Is as the book of God before thee set,  
Wherein to read his wondrous works, and learn  
His seasons, hours, or days, or months, or years:  
'This to attain, whether Heav'n move or Earth, 70  
Imports not, if thou reckon right; the rest  
From man or angel the great Architect  
Did wisely to conceal, and not divulge

His secrets to be scann'd by them who ought  
Rather admire; or if they list to try 75  
Conjecture, he his fabric of the heav'n's  
Hath left to their disputes, perhaps to move  
His laughter at their quaint opinions wide  
Hereafter, when they come to model Heav'n  
And calculate the stars, how they will wield 80  
The mighty frame, how build, unbuild, contrive  
To save appearances, how gird the sphere  
With centric and eccentric scribled o'er,  
Cycle and epicycle, orb in orb:  
Already by thy reasoning this I guess, 85  
Who art to lead thy offspring, and supposest  
That bodies bright and greater should not serve  
The less not bright, nor Heav'n such journies run,  
Earth sitting still, when she alone receives  
The benefit: Consider first, that great 90  
Or bright infers not excellence: the Earth  
Though, in comparison of Heav'n, so small,  
Nor glist'ring, may of solid good contain  
More plenty than the sun that barren shines,  
Whose virtue on itself works no effect, 95  
But in the fruitful Earth; there first receiv'd  
His beams, unactive else, their vigor find.  
Yet not to Earth are those bright luminaries  
Officious, but to thee Earth's habitant.  
And for the Heav'n's wide circuit, let it speak 100  
The Maker's high magnificence, who built

So spacious, and his line stretch'd out so far;  
That man may know he dwells not in his own;  
An edifice too large for him to fill,  
Lodg'd in a small partition, and the rest 105  
Ordain'd for uses to his Lord best known.  
The swiftness of those circles attribute,  
Though numberless, to his omnipotence,  
That to corporeal substances could add  
Speed almost spiritual; me thou think'st not slow, 110  
Who since the morning hour set out from Heav'n  
Where God resides, and ere mid-day arriv'd  
In Eden, distance inexpressible  
By numbers that have name. But this I urge,  
Admitting motion in the Heav'ns, to show 115  
Invalid that which thee to doubt it mov'd;  
Not that I so affirm, though so it seem  
To thee who hast thy dwelling here on Earth.  
God, to remove his ways from human sense,  
Plac'd Heav'n from Earth so far, that earthly sight,  
If it presume, might err in things too high, 121  
And no advantage gain. What if the sun  
Be center to the world, and other stars,  
By his attractive virtue and their own  
Incited, dance about him various rounds? 125  
Their wand'ring course now high, now low, then hid,  
Progressive, retrograde, or standing still,  
In fix thou seest, and what if seventh to these  
The planet Earth, so stedfast though she seem,



Insensibly three different motions move? 130  
Which else to several spheres thou must ascribe  
Mov'd contrary with thwart obliquities,  
Or save the Sun his labor, and that swift  
Nocturnal and diurnal rhomb suppos'd,  
Invisible else above all stars, the wheel 135  
Of day and night; which needs not thy belief,  
If Earth industrious of herself fetch Day  
'Travelling East, and with her part averse  
From the sun's beam meet Night, her other part  
Still luminous by his ray. What if that light 140  
Sent from her through the wide transpicious air,  
'To the terrestrial Moon be as a star  
Inlightning her by day, as she by night  
'This Earth? reciprocal, if land be there,  
Fields and inhabitants: her spots thou seest 145  
As clouds, and clouds may rain, and rain produce  
Fruits in her soften'd soil, for some to eat  
Allotted there; and other suns perhaps  
With their attendant moons thou wilt descry  
Communicating male and female light, 150  
Which two great sexes animate the World,  
Stor'd in each orb perhaps with some that live.  
For such vast room in Nature unpossess'd  
By living soul, desert and desolate,  
Only to shine, yet scarce to contribute 155  
Each orb a glimpse of light, convey'd so far  
Down to this habitable, which returns

Light back to them, is obvious to dispute.  
But whether thus these things, or whether not,  
Whether the sun predominant in Heav'n 160  
Rise on the Earth, or Earth rise on the sun,  
He from the East his flaming road begin,  
Or she from West her silent course advance  
With inoffensive pace that spinning sleeps  
On her soft axle, while she paces even 165  
And bears thee soft with the smooth air along,  
Solicit not thy thoughts with matters hid,  
Leave them to God above, him serve and fear;  
Of other creatures, as him pleases best,  
Wherever plac'd, let him dispose: joy thou 170  
In what he gives to thee, this Paradise  
And thy fair Eve; Heav'n is for thee too high  
To know what passes there; be lowly wise:  
Think only what concerns thee and thy being;  
Dream not of other worlds, what creatures there 175  
Live, in what state, condition, or degree,  
Contented that thus far hath been reveal'd  
Not of Earth only but of highest Heav'n.

To whom thus Adam, clear'd of doubt, reply'd.  
How fully hast thou satisfy'd me, pure 180  
Intelligence of Heav'n, angel serene,  
And freed from intricacies, taught to live  
The easiest way, nor with perplexing thoughts  
To interrupt the sweet of life, from which  
God hath bid dwell far off all anxious cares, 185

And not molest us, unless we ourselves  
Seek them with wand'ring thoughts, and notions vain,  
But apt the mind or fancy is to rove  
Uncheck'd, and of her roving is no end;  
'Till warn'd, or by experience taught, she learn, 190  
'That not to know at large of things remote  
From use, obscure, and subtle, but to know  
'That which before us lies in daily life,  
Is the prime wisdom; what is more is fume,  
Or emptiness, or fond impertinence, 195  
And renders us in things that most concern  
Unpractis'd, unprepar'd, and still to seek.  
Therefore from this high pitch let us descend  
A lower flight, and speak of things at hand  
Useful, whence haply mention may arise 200  
Of something not unseasonable to ask  
By sufferance, and thy wonted favor deign'd.  
Thee I have heard relating what was done  
Ere my remembrance: now hear me relate  
My story, which perhaps thou hast not heard; 205  
And day is not yet spent; till then thou see'st  
How subtly to detain thee I devise,  
Inviting thee to hear while I relate,  
Fond, were it not in hope of thy reply:  
For while I sit with thee I seem in Heav'n, 210  
And sweeter thy discourse is to my ear  
Than fruits of palm-tree pleasantest to thirst  
And hunger both, from labor, at the hour

Of sweet repast; they satiate, and soon fill  
Though pleasant, but thy words with grace divine  
Imbued, bring to their sweetness no satiety. 216

To whom thus Raphael answer'd heav'nly meek.

Nor are thy lips ungraceful, Sire of Men,  
Nor tongue ineloquent; for God on thee  
Abundantly his gifts hath also pour'd 220

Inward and outward both, his image fair:  
Speaking or mute all comeliness and grace  
Attends thee, and each word, each motion forms;

Nor less think we in Heav'n of thee on Earth  
Than of our fellow-servant, and inquire 225

Gladly into the ways of God with Man:  
For God we see hath honor'd thee, and set  
On man his equal love: say therefore on;

For I that day was absent, as beset,  
Bound on a voyage uncouth and obscure, 230

Far on excursion tow'ard the gates of Hell;  
Squar'd in full legion (such command we had)  
To see that none thence issued forth a spy,

Or enemy, while God was in his work,  
Lest he incens'd at such eruption bold, 235

Destruction with creation might have mix'd.  
Not that they durst without his leave attempt,

But us he sends upon his high behests  
For state, as Sovran King, and to inure  
Our prompt obedience. Fast we found, fast shut 240

The dismal gates, and barricado'd strong;

But long ere our approaching heard within  
Noise, other than the sound of dance or song,  
Torment, and loud lament, and furious rage.  
Glad we return'd up to the coasts of Light 245  
Ere sabbath evening : so we had in charge.

But thy relation now ; for I attend,  
Pleas'd with thy words no less than thou with mine.

So spake the godlike Power, and thus our Sire :  
For man to tell how human life began 250

Is hard ; for who himself beginning knew ?  
Desire with thee still longer to converse

Induc'd me. As new wak'd from soundest sleep  
Soft on the flowery herb I found me laid

In balmy sweat, which with his beams the sun 255  
Soon dry'd, and on the reeking moisture fed.

Strait toward Heav'n my wond'ring eyes I turn'd,  
And gaz'd a while the ample sky, till rais'd

By quick instinctive motion up I sprung,  
As thitherward endeavoring, and upright, 260

Stood on my feet ; about me round I saw  
Hill, dale, and shady woods, and sunny plains,

And liquid lapse of murm'ring streams ; by these,  
Creatures that liv'd and mov'd, and walk'd, or flew,

Birds on the branches warbling ; all things smil'd, 265  
With fragrance and with joy my heart o'erflow'd.

Myself I then perus'd, and limb by limb  
Survey'd, and sometimes went, and sometimes ran

With supple joints, as lively vigor led ;



But who I was, or where, or from what cause, 270  
Knew not; to speak I try'd, and forthwith spake;  
My tongue obey'd, and readily could name  
Whate'er I saw. Thou Sun, said I, fair light,  
And thou inlighten'd Earth, so fresh and gay,  
Ye Hills, and Dales, ye Rivers, Woods, and Plains,  
And ye that live and move, fair Creatures tell, 276  
Tell, if ye saw, how came I thus, how here?  
Not of myself; by some great Maker then,  
In goodness and in power præminent;  
Tell me, how may I know him, how adore, 280  
From whom I have that thus I move and live,  
And feel that I am happier than I know.  
While thus I call'd, and stray'd I knew not whither,  
From where I first drew air, and first beheld  
This happy light, when answer none return'd, 285  
On a green shady bank profuse of flowers  
Pensive I sat me down; there gentle Sleep  
First found me, and with soft oppression seiz'd  
My droued sense, untroubled, though I thought  
I then was passing to my former state. 290  
Insensible, and forthwith to dissolve:  
When suddenly stood at my head a Dream,  
Whose inward apparition gently mov'd  
My fancy to believe I yet had being,  
And liv'd: One came, methought, of shape divine,  
And said, Thy mansion wants thee, Adam, rise, 296  
First Man, of men innumerable ordain'd

First Father, call'd by thee I come thy guide  
To the Garden of Bliss, thy seat prepar'd.  
So saying, by the hand he took me rais'd, 300  
And over fields and waters, as in air  
Smooth sliding without step, last led me up  
A woody mountain, whose high top was plain,  
A circuit wide, inclos'd, with goodliest trees  
Planted, with walks, and bowers, that what I saw 305  
Of Earth before scarce pleasant seem'd. Each tree  
Loaden with fairest fruit that hung to th' eye  
Tempting, stir'd in me sudden appetite  
To pluck and eat; whereat I wak'd, and found  
Before mine eyes all real, as the Dream 310  
Had lively shadow'd: here had new begun  
My wand'ring, had not he who was my guide  
Up hither, from among the trees appear'd,  
Presence divine. Rejoicing, but with awe,  
In adoration at his feet I fell 315  
Submits: he rear'd me', and Whom thou fought'st  
Said mildly, Author of all this thou see'st [I am,  
Above, or round about thee, or beneath.  
This Paradise I give thee, count it thine  
To till and keep, and of the fruit to eat: 320  
Of every tree that in the garden grows  
Eat freely with glad heart; fear here no dearth:  
But of the tree whose operation brings  
Knowledge of good and ill, which I have set  
The pledge of thy obedience and thy faith, 325

Amid the garden by the tree of Life,  
Remember what I warn thee, shun to taste,  
And shun the bitter consequence: for know,  
The day thou eat'st thereof, my sole command  
Transgress'd, inevitably thou shalt die, 330  
From that day mortal, and this happy state  
Shalt lose, expell'd from hence into a world  
Of woe and sorrow. Sternly he pronounc'd  
The rigid interdiction, which resounds  
Yet dreadful in mine ear, though in my choice 335  
Not to incur; but soon his clear aspect  
Return'd, and gracious purpose thus renew'd.  
Not only these fair bounds, but all the Earth  
To thee and to thy race I give; as lords  
Possess it, and all things that therein live, 340  
Or live in sea, or air, beast, fish, and fowl.  
In sign whereof each bird and beast behold  
After their kinds; I bring them to receive  
From thee their names, and pay thee fealty  
With low subjection; understand the same 345  
Of fish within their watry residence,  
Not hither summon'd, since they cannot change  
Their element to draw the thinner air.  
As thus he spake, each bird and beast behold  
Approaching two and two, these cowering low 350  
With blandishment, each bird stoop'd on his wing.  
I nam'd them, as they pass'd, and understood  
Their nature, with such knowledge God induc'd

My sudden apprehension : but in these  
I found not what methought I wanted still; 355  
And to the heav'nly Vision thus presum'd.

O by what name, for thou above all these,  
Above Mankind, or ought than Mankind higher,  
Surpassest far my naming, how may I  
Adore thee, Author of this universe, 360  
And all this good to man ? for whose well being  
So amply, and with hands so liberal  
Thou hast provided all things : but with me  
I see not who partakes. In solitude  
What happiness, who can enjoy alone, 365  
Or all enjoying, what contentment find ?  
Thus I presumptuous ; and the Vision bright,  
As with a smile more brighten'd, thus reply'd.

What call'st thou Solitude ? is not the Earth  
With various living creatures, and the air 370  
Replenish'd, and all these at thy command  
To come and play before thee ? know'st thou not  
Their language and their ways ? they also know,  
And reason not contemptibly ; with these  
Find pastime, and bear rule ; thy realm is large. 375  
So spake the universal Lord, and seem'd  
So ord'ring. I with leave of speech implor'd,  
And humble deprecation thus reply'd.

Let not my words offend thee, heav'nly Power ;  
My Maker, be propitious while I speak. 380  
Hast thou not made me here thy substitute,

And these inferior far beneath me set?  
Among unequals what society  
Can sort, what harmony or true delight?  
Which must be mutual, in proportion due 385  
Giv'n and receiv'd; but in disparity  
The one intense, the other still remiss  
Cannot well suit with either, but soon prove  
Tudious alike: of fellowship I speak  
Such as I seek, fit to participate 390  
All rational delight, wherein the brute  
Cannot be human consort; they rejoice  
Each with their kind, lion with lions; ;  
So fitly them in pairs thou hast combin'd;  
Much less can bird with beast, or fish with fowl 395  
So well converse, nor with the ox the ape;  
Worse then can man with beast, and least of all.  
Whereto th' Almighty answer'd not displeas'd.  
A nice and subtle happiness I see  
Thou to thyself proposest, in the choice 400  
Of thy associates, Adam, and wilt taste  
No pleasure, though in pleasure, solitary.  
What think'st thou then of me, and this my state?  
Seem I to thee sufficiently possess'd  
Of happiness, or not? who am alone 405  
From all eternity, for none I know  
Second to me or like, equal much less.  
How have I then with whom to hold converse  
Save with the creatures which I made, and those



To me inferior, infinite descents 410  
Beneath what other creatures are to thee?

He ceas'd, I lowly answer'd. To attain  
The highth and depth of thy eternal ways  
All human thoughts come short, Supreme of things;  
Thou in thyself art perfect, and in thee 415

Is no deficiency found; not so is man,  
But in degree, the cause of his desire  
By conversation with his like to help,  
Or solace his defects. No need that thou  
Shouldst propagate, already infinite, 420

And through all numbers absolute, though one;  
But man by number is to manifest  
His single imperfection, and beget  
Like of his like, his image multiply'd,  
In unity defective, which requires 425  
Collateral love, and dearest amity.

Thou in thy secrecy although alone,  
Best with thyself accompanied, seek'st not  
Social communication, yet so pleas'd,  
Canst raise thy creature to what highth thou wilt 430  
Of union or communion, deify'd;

I by conversing cannot these erect  
From prone, nor in their ways complacence find.  
Thus I imbolden'd spake, and freedom us'd  
Permissive, and acceptance found, which gain'd 435  
This answer from the gracious voice divine.

Thus far to try thee, Adam, I was pleas'd,

And find thee knowing not of beasts alone,  
Which thou hast rightly nam'd, but of thyself,  
Expressing well the spi'rit within thee free, 440  
My image, not imparted to the brute,  
Whose fellowship therefore unmeet for thee  
Good reason was thou freely shouldst dislike,  
And be so minded still; I, ere thou spak'st,  
Knew it not good for man to be alone, 445  
And no such company as then thou saw'st  
Intended thee, for trial only brought,  
To see how thou couldst judge of fit and meet :  
What next I bring shall please thee, be assur'd,  
Thy likeness, thy fit help, thy other self, 450  
Thy wish exactly to thy heart's desire.

He ended, or I heard no more, for now  
My earthly by his heav'nly overpower'd,  
Which it had long stood under, strain'd to th' highth  
In that celestial colloquy sublime, 455  
As with an object that excels the sense  
Dazzled and spent, sunk down, and sought repair  
Of Sleep, which instantly fell on me, call'd  
By Nature as in aid, and clos'd mine eyes.  
Mine eyes he clos'd, but open left the cell 460  
Of fancy my internal sight, by which  
Abstract as in a trance methought I saw,  
Though sleeping, where I lay, and saw the shape  
Still glorious before whom awake I stood :  
Who sloping open'd my left side, and took 465

From thence a rib, with cordial spirits warm,  
And life-blood streaming fresh; wide was the wound,  
But suddenly with flesh fill'd up and heal'd:  
The rib he form'd and fashion'd with his hands;  
Under his forming hands a creature grew 470  
Manlike, but different sex, so lovely fair,  
That what seem'd fair in all the world, seem'd now  
Mean, or in her summ'd up, in her contain'd  
And in her looks, which from that time infus'd  
Sweetness into my heart, unfelt before, 475  
And into all things from her air inspir'd  
The spi'rit of Love and amorous delight.  
She disappear'd, and left me dark; I wak'd  
To find her, or for ever to deplore  
Her loss, and other pleasures all abjure: 480  
When out of hope, behold her, not far off,  
Such as I saw her in my dream, adorn'd  
With what all Earth or Heaven could bestow  
To make her amiable: on she came,  
Led by her heav'nly Maker, though unseen, 485  
And guided by his voice, nor uninform'd  
Of nuptial sanctity and marriage rites:  
Grace was in all her steps, Heav'n in her eye,  
In every gesture dignity and love.  
I overjoy'd could not forbear aloud. 490

This turn hath made amends; thou hast fulfill'd  
Thy words, Creator bounteous and benign,  
Giver of all things fair, but fairest this

Of all thy gifts, nor enviest. I now see  
Bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh, myself 495  
Before me; Woman is her name, of Man  
Extracted; for this cause he shall forego  
Father and mother, and to' his wife adhere;  
And they shall be one flesh, one heart, one soul.

She heard me thus, and though divinely brought,  
Yet innocence and virgin modesty, 501  
Her virtue and the conscience of her worth,  
'That would be woo'd, and not unsought be won,  
Not obvious, not obtrusive, but retir'd,  
The more desirable, or to say all, 505  
Nature herself, though pure of sinful thought,  
Wrought in her so, that seeing me, she turn'd;  
I follow'd her, she what was honor knew,  
And with obsequious majesty approv'd  
My pleaded reason. To the nuptial bower 510  
I led her blushing like the Morn : all Heav'n,  
And happy constellations on that hour  
Shed their selectest influence; the Earth  
Gave sign of gratulation, and each hill;  
Joyous the birds; fresh gales and gentle airs 515  
Whisper'd it to the woods, and from their wings  
Flung rose, flung odors from the spicy shrub,  
Disporting, till the amorous bird of night  
Sung spousal, and bid haste the evening star  
On his hill top, to light the bridal lamp. 520  
Thus have I told thee all my state, and brought

My story to the sum of earthly blifs  
Which I enjoy, and must confess to find  
In all things else delight indeed, but such  
As us'd or not, works in the mind no change, 525  
Nor vehement desire, these delicacies  
I mean of taste, sight, smell, herbs, fruits, and flowers,  
Walks, and the melody of birds; but here  
Far otherwise, transported I behold,  
Transported touch; here passion first I felt, 530  
Commotion strange, in all enjoyments else  
Superior and unmov'd, here only weak  
Against the charm of Beauty's powerful glance.  
Or Nature fail'd in me, and left some part  
Not proof enough such object to sustain, 535  
Or from my side subducting, took perhaps  
More than enough; at least on her bestow'd  
Too much of ornament, in outward show  
Elaborate, of inward less exact.  
For well I understand in the prime end 540  
Of Nature her th' inferior, in the mind  
And inward faculties, which most excel,  
In outward also her resembling less  
His image who made both, and less expressing  
The character of that dominion given 545  
O'er other creatures; yet when I approach  
Her loveliness, so absolute she seems  
And in herself complete, so well to know  
Her own, that what she wills to do or say



Seems wisest, virtuourest, discreetest, best;  
All higher knowledge in her presence falls  
Degraded, Wisdom in discourse with her  
Loses discount'nanc'd, and like Folly shows;  
Authority and Reason on her wait,  
As one intended first, not after made  
Occasionally; and to consummate all,  
Greatness of mind, and Nobleness their feat  
Build in her loveliest, and create an awe  
About her, as a guard angelic plac'd.  
To whom the angel with contracted brow. 560  
Accuse not Nature, she hath done her part;  
Do thou but thine, and be not diffident  
Of Wisdom, she deserts thee not, if thou  
Dismiss not her, when most thou need'st her nigh,  
By attributing overmuch to things 565  
Less excellent, as thou thyself perceiv'st,  
For what admir'st thou, what transports thee so,  
An outside? fair no doubt, and worthy well  
Thy cherishing, thy honoring, and thy love,  
Not thy subjection: weigh with her thyself; 570  
Then value: oft-times nothing profits more  
Than self-esteem, grounded on just and right  
Well manag'd; of that skill the more thou know'st,  
The more she will acknowledge thee her head,  
And to realities yield all her shows: 575  
Made so adorn for thy delight the more,  
So awful, that with honor thou may'st love

Thy mate, who sees when thou art seen least wise.  
But if the sense of touch whereby mankind  
Is propagated seem such dear delight 580  
Beyond all other, think the same vouchsaf'd  
To cattel and each beast; which would not be  
To them made common and divulg'd, if ought  
Therein enjoy'd were worthy to subdue  
The soul of man, or passion in him move. 585  
What high'er in her society thou find'st  
Attractive, human, rational, love still;  
In loving thou dost well, in passion not,  
Wherein true love consists not; Love refines  
The thoughts, and heart enlarges, hath his seat 590  
In rea'son, and is judicious, is the scale  
By which to heav'nly love thou may'st ascend,  
Not sunk in carnal pleasure, for which cause  
Among the beasts no mate for thee was found.  
To whom thus half abash'd Adam reply'd. 595  
Neither her outside form'd so fair, nor ought  
In procreation common to all kinds  
(Though higher of the genial bed by far,  
And with mysterious reverence I deem)  
So much delights me, as those graceful acts, 600  
Those thousand decencies that daily flow  
From all her words and actions mix'd with love  
And sweet compliance, which declare unfeign'd  
Union of mind, or in us both one soul;  
Harmony to behold in wedded pair 605

More grateful than harmonious sound to th' ear.  
Yet these subject not; I to thee disclose  
What inward thence I feel, not therefore foil'd,  
Who meet with various objects, from the sense  
Variouſly repreſenting; yet ſtill free 610  
Approve the beſt, and follow' what I approve.  
To love thou blaſt me not, for love thou ſay'ſt  
Leads up to Heav'n, is both the way and guide;  
Bear with me then, if lawful what I aſk;  
Love not the heav'nly ſpi'rits, and how their love 615  
Expres they, by looks only', or do they mix  
Irradiance, virtual or immediate touch?

To whom the angel with a ſmile that glow'd  
Celeſtial roſy red, Love's proper hue,  
Answer'd. Let it ſuffice thee that thou know'ſt 620  
Us happy', and without love no happineſs.  
Whatever pure thou in the body' enjoy'ſt  
(And pure thou wert created) we enjoy  
In eminence, and obſtacle find none  
Of membrane, joint, or limb, excluſive bars; 625  
Eaſier than air with air, if ſpi'rits embrace,  
Total they mix, union of pure with pure  
Deſiring; nor reſtrain'd conveyance need  
As fleſh to mix with fleſh, or ſoul with ſoul.  
But I can now no more; the parting ſun 630  
Beyond the Earth's green cape and verdant iſles  
Heſperian ſets, my ſignal to depart.  
Be ſtrong, live happy', and love, but firſt of all

Him whom to love is to obey, and keep  
His great command; take heed lest passion sway 63  
Thy judgment to do ought, which else free will  
Would not admit; thine and of all thy sons  
The weal or woe in thee is plac'd; beware.  
I in thy persevering shall rejoice,  
And all the Blest: stand fast; to stand or fall 64  
Free in thine own arbitrement it lies.  
Perfect within, no outward aid require;  
And all temptation to transgress repel.

So saying, he arose; whom Adam thus 64  
Follow'd with benediction. Since to part,  
Go heav'nly guest, ethereal messenger,  
Sent from whose sovran goodness I adore.  
Gentle to me and affable hath been  
Thy condescension, and shall be' honor'd ever  
With grateful memory: thou to mankind 65  
Be good and friendly still, and oft return.

So parted they, the angel up to Heav'n 65  
From the thick shade, and Adam to his bower. 653

*The End of the Eighth Book.*

# PARADISE LOST.

## BOOK IX.

### The Argument.

Satan having compass'd the Earth, with meditated guile returns as a mist by night into Paradise, enters into the serpent sleeping. Adam and Eve in the morning go forth to their labors, which Eve proposes to divide in several places, each laboring apart: Adam consents not, alledging the danger, lest that enemy, of whom they were forewarn'd, should attempt her found alone: Eve loath to be thought not circumspect or firm enough, urges her going apart, the rather desirous to make trial of her strength; Adam at last yields: the serpent finds her alone; his subtle approach, first gazing, then speaking, with much flattery extolling Eve above all other creatures. Eve wondering to hear the serpent speak, asks how he attain'd to human speech and such understanding not till now? the serpent answers, that by tasting of a certain tree in the garden he attain'd both to speech and reason, till then void of both: Eve requires him to bring her to that tree, and finds it to be the tree of Knowledge forbidden: the serpent now grown bolder, with many wiles and arguments induces her at length to eat; she pleas'd with the taste deliberates a while whether to impart thereof to Adam or not, at last brings him of the fruit, relates what persuaded her to eat thereof: Adam at first amaz'd, but perceiving her lost, resolves through vehemence of love to perish with her: and extenuating the trespass eats also of the fruit: the effects thereof in them both; they seek to cover their nakedness; then fall to variance and accusation of one another.

No more of talk where God or angel guest  
With man, as with his friend, familiar us'd  
To sit indulgent, and with him partake  
Rural repast, permitting him the while  
Venial discourse unblam'd: I now must change  
Those notes to tragic; foul distrust, and breach  
Disloyal on the part of man, revolt,



And disobedience : on the part of Heav'n  
Now alienated, distance and distaste,  
Anger and just rebuke, and judgment given, 10  
That brought into this world a world of woe,  
Sin and her shadow Death, and Misery  
Death's harbinger : sad task, yet argument  
Not less but more heroic than the wrath  
Of stern Achilles on his foe pursu'd  
Thrice fugitive about Troy wall ; or rage  
Of Turnus for Lavinia disespous'd,  
Or Neptune's ire or Juno's, that so long  
Perplex'd the Greek and Cytherea's son ;  
If answerable stile I can obtain 20  
Of my celestial Patroness, who deigns  
Her nightly visitation unimplor'd,  
And dictates to me slumb'ring, or inspires  
Easy my unpremeditated verse :  
Since first this subject for heroic song 25  
Pleas'd me long chusing, and beginning late ;  
Not sedulous by nature to indite  
Wars, hitherto the only argument  
Heroic deem'd, chief mast'ry to dissect  
With long and tedious havoc fabled knights 30  
In battels feign'd ; the better fortitude  
Of Patience and heroic Martyrdom  
Unsung ; or to describe races and games,  
Or tilting furniture, imblazon'd shields,  
Impresses quaint, caparifons and steeds ; 35

Bases and tinsel trappings, gorgeous knights  
At joust and torneament; then marshal'd feast  
Serv'd up in hall with sewers and seneschals;  
The skill of artifice or office mean,  
Not that which justly gives heroic name 40  
To person or to poem. Me of these  
Nor skill'd nor studious, higher argument  
Remains, sufficient of itself to raise  
That name, unless an age too late, or cold  
Climate, or years damp my intended wing 45  
Depress'd, and much they may, if all be mine,  
Not hers who brings it nightly to my ear.

The sun was sunk, and after him the star  
Of Hesperus, whose office is to bring  
Twilight upon the Earth, short arbiter 50  
'Twixt day and night, and now from end to end  
Night's hemisphere had veil'd th' horizon round:  
When Satan who late fled before the threats  
Of Gabriel out of Eden, now improv'd  
In meditated fraud and malice, bent 55  
On man's destruction, maugre what might hap  
Of heavier on himself, fearless return'd.  
By night he fled, and at midnight return'd  
From compassing the Earth, cautious of day,  
Since Uriel regent of the sun descry'd 60  
His entrance, and forewarn'd the cherubim  
That kept their watch; thence full of anguish driven,  
The space of sev'n continued nights he rode

With Darkneſs, thrice the equinoctial line  
He circled, four times croſs'd the car of Night 65  
From pole to pole, travelling each colūre;  
On th' eighth return'd, and on the coaſt averſe  
From entrance or cherubic watch, by ſtealth  
Found unſuſpected way. There was a place, 69  
Now not, tho' Sin, not Time, firſt wrought the change,  
Where Tigris at the foot of Paradife  
Into a gulf ſhot under ground, till part  
Roſe up a fountain by the tree of Life;  
In with the river ſunk, and with it roſe  
Satan involv'd in riſing miſt, then fought 75  
Where to lie hid; ſea he had ſearch'd and land  
From Eden over Pontus, and the pool  
Mæotis, up beyond the river Ob;  
Downward as far antarctic; and in length  
Weſt from Orontes to the ocean barr'd 80  
At Darien, thence to the land where flows  
Ganges and Indus: thus the orb he roam'd  
With narrow ſearch, and with inſpection deep  
Conſider'd every creature, which of all  
Moſt opportune might ſerve his wiles, and found 85  
The ſerpent ſubtleſt beaſt of all the field.  
Him after long debate, irrefolute  
Of thoughts revolv'd, his final ſentence choſe  
Fit veſſel, fitteſt imp of fraud, in whom  
To enter, and his dark ſuggeſtions hide 90  
From ſharpeſt ſight: for in the wily ſnake,

Whatever fleights none would suspicious mark,  
As from his wit and native subtlety  
Proceeding, which in other beasts observ'd  
Doubt might beget of diabolic power 95  
Active within beyond the sense of brute.  
Thus he resolv'd, but first from inward grief  
His bursting passion into plaints thus pour'd.  
Earth, how like to Heav'n, if not preferr'd  
More justly, seat worthier of gods, as built 100  
With second thoughts, reforming what was old!  
For what god after better worse would build?  
Terrestrial Heav'n, danc'd round by other heav'ns  
That shine, yet bear their bright officious lamps,  
Light above light, for thee alone, as seems 105  
In thee concentring all their precious beams  
Of sacred influence! As God in Heav'n  
Is center, yet extends to all, so thou  
Centring receiv'st from all those orbs; in thee,  
Not in themselves, all their known virtue' appears  
Productive in herb, plant, and nobler birth 111  
Of creatures animate with gradual life  
Of growth, sense, reason, all summ'd up in man.  
With what delight could I have walk'd thee round,  
If I could joy in ought, sweet interchange 115  
Of hill and valley, rivers, woods, and plains,  
Now land, now sea, and shores with forest crown'd,  
Rocks, dens, and caves! but I in none of these  
Find place or refuge; and the more I see

Pleasures about me, so much more I feel 120  
Torment within me', as from the hateful siege  
Of contraries; all good to me becomes  
Bane, and in Heav'n much worse would be my state.  
But neither here seek I, no nor in Heav'n  
To dwell, unless by mast'ring Heav'n's Supreme; 125  
Nor hope to be myself less miserable  
By what I seek, but others to make such  
As I, though thereby worse to me redound:  
For only in destroying I find ease  
To my relentless thoughts; and him destroy'd, 130  
Or won to what may work his utter loss,  
For whom all this was made, all this will soon  
Follow, as to him link'd in weal or woe,  
In woe then; that Destruction wide may range:  
To me shall be the glory sole among 135  
Th' infernal powers, in one day to have marr'd  
What he Almighty stil'd, six nights and days  
Continu'd making, and who knows how long  
Before had been contriving, though perhaps  
Not longer than since I in one night freed 140  
From servitude inglorious well nigh half  
Th' angelic name, and thinner left the throng  
Of his adorers: he to be aveng'd,  
And to repair his numbers thus impair'd,  
Whether such virtue spent of old now fail'd 145  
More angels to create, if they at least  
Are his created, or to spite us more,



Determin'd to advance into our room  
A creature form'd of earth, and him endow,  
Exalted from so base original, 150  
With heav'nly spoils, our spoils: what he decreed  
He' effected; man he made, and for him built  
Magnificent this world, and Earth his seat,  
Him Lord pronounc'd, and, O indignity!  
Subjected to his service angel wings, 155  
And flaming ministers to watch and tend  
Their earthly charge: of these the vigilance  
I dread, and to elude, thus wrapt in mist  
Of midnight vapor glide obscure, and pry  
In every bush and brake, where hap may find 160  
The serpent sleeping, in whose mazy folds  
To hide me, and the dark intent I bring.  
O foul descent! that I who erst contended  
With gods to sit the high'est, am now constrain'd  
Into a beast, and mix'd with bestial slime, 165  
This essence to incarnate and imbrute,  
That to the highth of Deity aspir'd;  
But what will not Ambition and Revenge  
Descend to? who aspires must down as low  
As high he soar'd, obnoxious first or last 170  
To basest things. Revenge, at first though sweet,  
Bitter ere long back on itself recoils;  
Let it; I reck not, so it light well aim'd,  
Since higher I fall short, on him who next  
Provokes my envy, this new favourite 175

Of Heav'n, this Man of Clay, son of Despite,  
Whom us the more to spite his Maker rais'd  
From dust : spite then with spite is best repaid.

So saying, through each thicket dank or dry,  
Like a black mist low creeping, he held on 180  
His midnight search, where soonest he might find  
The serpent : him fast sleeping soon he found  
In labyrinth of many a round self-roll'd,  
His head the midst, well stor'd with subtle wiles :  
Not yet in horrid shade or dismal den, 185  
Nor nocent yet, but on the grassy herb  
Fearless unfear'd he slept : in at his mouth  
The Devil enter'd, and his brutal sense,  
In heart or head, possessing soon inspir'd  
With act intelligential ; but his sleep 190  
Disturb'd not, waiting close th' approach of morn.  
Now when as sacred Light began to dawn  
In Eden on the humid flowers, that breath'd  
Their morning incense, when all things that breathe,  
From th' Earth's great altar send up silent praise 195  
To the Creator, and his nostrils fill  
With grateful smell, forth came the Human Pair,  
And join'd their vocal worship to the quire  
Of creatures wanting voice ; that done, partake  
The season, prime for sweetest scents and airs : 200  
Then commune how that day they best may ply  
Their growing work : for much their work outgrew  
The hands' dispatch of two gard'ning so wide,

And Eve first to her husband thus began.

Adam, well may we labor still to dress 205  
This garden, still to tend plant, herb and flower,  
Our pleasant task injoin'd, but till more hands  
Aid us, the work under our labor grows,  
Luxurious by restraint; what we by day  
Lop overgrown, or prune, or prop, or bind, 210  
One night or two with wanton growth derides  
Tending to wild. Thou therefore now advise,  
Or bear what to my mind first thoughts present;  
Let us divide our labors, thou where choice  
Leads thee, or where most needs, whether to wind 215  
The woodbine round this arbor, or direct  
The clasping ivy where to climb, while I  
In yonder spring of roses intermix'd  
With myrtle, find what to redress till noon:  
For while so near each other thus all day 220  
Our task we chuse, what wonder if so near  
Looks intervene and smiles, or object new  
Casual discourse draw on, which intermits  
Our day's work brought to little, though begun  
Early, and th' hour of supper comes unearn'd. 225  
To whom mild answer Adam thus return'd.  
Sole Eve, associate sole, to me beyond  
Compare above all living creatures dear,  
Well hast thou motion'd, well thy thoughts employ'd  
How we might best fulfil the work which here 230  
God hath assign'd us, nor of me shalt pass

Unprais'd: for nothing lovelier can be found  
In woman, than to study household good,  
And good works in her husband to promote.  
Yet not so strictly hath our Lord impos'd 235  
Labor, as to debar us when we need  
Refreshment, whether food, or talk between.  
Food of the mind, or this sweet intercourse  
Of looks and smiles, for smiles from Reason flow,  
To brute deny'd, and are of Love the food, 240  
Love not the lowest end of human life.  
For not to irksome toil, but to delight  
He made us, and delight to reason join'd.  
These paths and bowers doubt not but our joint hands  
Will keep from wilderness with ease, as wide 245  
As we need walk, till younger hands ere long  
Assist us: but if much converse perhaps  
Thee satiate, to short absence I could yield:  
For solitude sometimes is best society,  
And short retirement urges sweet return. 250  
But other doubt possesses me, lest harm  
Besal thee sever'd from me; for thou know'st  
What hath been warn'd us, what malicious foe  
Envyng our happiness, and of his own  
Despairing, seeks to work us woe and shame 255  
By sly assault; and somewhere nigh at hand  
Watches, no doubt, with greedy hope to find  
His wish and best advantage, us asunder,  
Hopeless to circumvent us join'd, where each

To other speedy aid might lend at need; 260  
Whether his first design be to withdraw  
Our fealty from God, or to disturb  
Conjugal love, than which perhaps no bliss  
Enjoy'd by us excites his envy more;  
Or this, or worse, leave not the faithful side 265  
That gave thee be'ing, still shades thee and protects.  
The wife, where danger or dishonor lurks,  
Safest and seemliest by her husband stays,  
Who guards her, or with her the worst endures.

To whom the virgin majesty of Eve, 270  
As one who loves, and some unkindness meets,  
With sweet austere composure thus reply'd.

Offspring of Heav'n and Earth, and all Earth's lord,  
That such an enemy we have, who seeks  
Our ruin, both by thee inform'd I learn, 275  
And from the parting angel over-heard,  
As in a shady nook I stood behind,  
Just then return'd at shut of evening flowers.

But that thou shouldst my firmness therefore doubt  
To God or thee, because we have a foe 280  
May tempt it, I expected not to hear.

His violence thou fear'st not, being such  
As we, not capable of death or pain,  
Can either not receive, or can repel.  
His fraud is then thy fear, which plain infers 285  
Thy equal fear that my firm faith and love  
Can by his fraud be shaken or seduc'd;



Thoughts, which how found they harbour in thy breast,  
Adam, mis-thought of her to thee so dear?

To whom with healing words Adam reply'd. 290  
Daughter of God and Man, immortal Eve,  
For such thou art, from sin and blame entire:  
Not diffident of thee do I dissuade

Thy absence from my sight, but to avoid  
Th' attempt itself, intended by our foe. 295

For he who tempts, though' in vain, at least asperges  
The tempted with dishonor foul, suppos'd  
Not incorruptible of faith, not proof  
Against temptation: thou thyself with scorn  
And anger wouldst resent the offer'd wrong, 300  
Though ineffectual found: misdeem not then,  
If such affront I labor to avert

From thee alone, which on us both at once  
The enemy, though bold, will hardly dare,  
Or daring, first on me th' assault shall light. 305

Nor thou his malice and false guile contemn;  
Subtle he needs must be, who could seduce  
Angels; nor think superfluous others aid.

I from the influence of thy looks receive  
Access in every virtue, in thy sight 310

More wise, more watchful, stronger, if need were  
Of outward strength; while shame, thou looking on,  
Shame to be overcome or over-reach'd

Would utmost vigor raise, and rais'd unite.

Why shouldst not thou like sense within thee feel 315

When I am present, and thy trial chuse  
With me, best witness of thy virtue try'd?  
So spake domestic Adam in his care  
And matrimonial love; but Eve, who thought  
Less attributed to her faith sincere, 320  
Thus her reply with accent sweet renew'd.  
If this be our condition, thus to dwell  
In narrow circuit straiten'd by a foe,  
Subtle or violent, we not indued  
Single with like defense, wherever met, 325  
How are we happy, still in fear of harm?  
But harm precedes not sin: only our foe  
Tempting affronts us with his foul esteem  
Of our integrity: his foul esteem  
Sticks no dishonor on our front, but turns 330  
Foul on himself; then wherefore shunn'd or fear'd  
By us? who rather double honor gain  
From his surmise prov'd false, find peace within,  
Favor from Heav'n, our witness from th' event.  
And what is faith, love, virtue unassay'd 335  
Alone, without exterior help sustain'd?  
Let us not then suspect our happy state  
Left so imperfect by the Maker wise,  
As not secure to single or combin'd.  
Frail is our happiness, if this be so, 340  
And Eden were no Eden thus expos'd.  
To whom thus Adam fervently reply'd.  
O Woman, best are all things as the will

Of God ordain'd them ; his creating Hand  
Nothing imperfect or deficient left 345  
Of all that he created, much less man,  
Or ought that might his happy state secure,  
Secure from outward force ; within himself  
The danger lies, yet lies within his power :  
Against his will he can receive no harm. 350  
But God left free the will, for what obeys  
Reason, is free, and Reason he made right,  
But bid her well be ware, and still erect,  
Lest by some fair appearing good surpris'd  
She dictate false, and misinform the will 355  
To do what God expressly hath forbid.  
Not then Mistrust, but tender Love enjoins,  
That I should mind thee oft, and mind thou me.  
Firm we subsist, yet possible to swerve,  
Since reason not impossibly may meet 360  
Some specious object by the foe suborn'd,  
And fall into deception unaware,  
Not keeping strictest watch, as she was warn'd.  
Seek not temptation then, which to avoid  
Were better, and most likely if from me 365  
Thou sever not : trial will come unsought.  
Wouldst thou approve thy constancy, approve  
First thy obedience ; th' other who can know,  
Not seeing thee attempted, who attest ?  
But if thou think, trial unsought may find 370  
Us both securer than thus warn'd thou seem'st,

Go; for thy stay, not free, absents thee more;  
Go in thy native innocence, rely  
On what thou hast of virtue, summon all,  
For God tow'ards thee hath done his part, do thine.

So spake the Patriarch of Mankind, but Eve 376  
Persisted, yet submissive, though last, reply'd.

With thy permission then, and thus forewarn'd  
Chiefly by what thy own last reasoning words  
Touch'd only, that our trial, when least fought, 380  
May find us both perhaps far less prepar'd,  
The willinger I go, nor much expect  
A foe so proud will first the weaker seek;  
So bent, the more shall shame him his repulse. 384

Thus saying, from her husband's hand her hand  
Soft she withdrew, and like a wood-nymph light,  
Oread or Dryad, or of Delia's train,  
Betook her to the groves, but Delia's self  
In gate surpass'd, and goddess-like deport, 390  
Though not as she with bow and quiver arm'd  
But with such gard'ning tools as Art yet rude,  
Guileless of fire, had form'd, or angels brought.  
To Pales, or Pomona, thus adorn'd,  
Likest she seem'd, Pomona when she fled  
Vertumnus, or to Ceres in her prime, 395  
Yet virgin of Proserpina from Jove.  
Her long with ardent look his eye pursu'd  
Delighted, but desiring more her stay.  
Oft he to her his charge of quick return

Repeated, she to him as oft engag'd 400  
To be return'd by noon amid the bower,  
And all things in best order to invite  
Noontide repast, or afternoon's repose.  
O much deceiv'd, much failing, hapless Eve,  
Of thy presum'd return! event perverse! 405  
'Thou never from that hour in Paradise  
Found'st either sweet repast, or sound repose;  
Such ambush hid among sweet flowers and shades  
Waited with hellish rancor imminent  
To intercept thy way, or send thee back 410  
Despoil'd of innocence, of faith, of bliss.  
For now, and since first break of dawn the Fiend,  
Mere serpent in appearance, forth was come,  
And on his quest, where likeliest he might find  
The only two of Mankind, but in them 415  
The whole included race, his purpos'd prey.  
In bower and field he fought, where any tuft  
Of grove or garden-plot more pleasant lay,  
Their tendence or plantation for delight;  
By fountain or by shady rivulet 420  
He fought them both, but wish'd his hap might find  
Eve separate, he wish'd, but not with hope  
Of what so seldom chanc'd, when to his wish,  
Beyond his hope, Eve separate he spies,  
Veil'd in a cloud of fragrance, where she stood, 425  
Half spy'd, so thick the roses blushing round  
About her glow'd, oft stooping to support



Each flower of slender stalk, whose head though gay  
Carnation, purple, azure, or speck'd with gold,  
Hung drooping unsustain'd; them she upstays 430  
Gently with myrtle band, mindless the while  
Herself, though fairest unsupported flower,  
From her best prop so far, and storm so nigh.  
Nearer he drew, and many a walk travers'd  
Of stateliest covert, cedar, pine, or palm, 435  
Then voluble and bold, now hid, now seen  
Among thick-woven arborets and flowers  
Imborder'd on each bank, the hand of Eve :  
Spot more delicious than those gardens feign'd  
Or of reviv'd Adonis, or renown'd 440  
Alcinous, host of old Laertes' son,  
Or that, not mystic, where the sapient king  
Held dalliance with his fair Egyptian spouse.  
Much he the place admir'd, the person more.  
As one who long in populous city pent, 445  
Where houses thick and sewers annoy the air,  
Forth issuing on a summer's morn to breathe  
Among the pleasant villages and farms  
Adjoin'd, from each thing met conceives delight,  
The smell of grain, or tedded grass, or kine, 450  
Or dairy, each rural sight, each rural sound;  
If chance with nymphlike step fair virgin pass,  
What pleasing seem'd, for her now pleases more,  
She most, and in her look sums all delight :  
Such pleasure took the serpent to behold 455

This flowery plat, the sweet recess of Eve  
Thus early, thus alone; her heav'nly form  
Angelic, but more soft, and femenine,  
Her graceful innocence, her every air  
Of gesture or least action overaw'd 460  
His malice, and with rapin sweet bereav'd  
His fierceness of the fierce intent it brought:  
That space the Evil-one abstracted stood  
From his own ev'il, and for the time remain'd  
Stupidly good, of enmity disarm'd, 465  
Of guile, of hate, of envy, of revenge;  
But the hot hell that always in him burns,  
Though in mid Heav'n, soon ended his delight,  
And tortures him now more, the more he sees  
Of pleasure not for him ordain'd: then soon 470  
Fierce hate he recollects, and all his thoughts  
Of mischief, gratulating, thus excites.

Thoughts, whither have ye led me! with what sweet  
Compulsion thus transported to forget  
What hither brought us! hate, not love, nor hope  
Of Paradise for Hell, hope here to taste 476  
Of pleasure, but all pleasure to destroy,  
Save what is in destroying; other joy  
To me is lost. Then let me not let pass  
Occasion which now smiles; behold alone 480  
The Woman, opportune to all attempts,  
Her husband, for I view far round, not nigh,  
Whose higher intellectual more I shun,

And strength, of courage haughty, and of limb  
Heroic built, though of terrestrial mold, 485  
Foe not formidable, exempt from wound,  
I not; so much hath Hell debas'd, and pain  
Infeebled me, to what I was in Heav'n.  
She fair, divinely fair, fit love for gods,  
Not terrible, though terror be in love 490  
And beauty, not approach'd by stronger hate,  
Hate stronger, under show of love well feign'd,  
The way which to her ruin now I tend.

So spake the Enemy' of mankind, inclos'd  
In serpent, inmate bad, and toward Eve 495  
Address'd his way, not with indented wave,  
Prone on the ground, as since, but on his rear,  
Circular base of rising folds, that tower'd  
Fold above fold a furling maze, his head  
Crested aloft, and carbuncle his eyes; 500  
With burnish'd neck of verdant gold, erect  
Amidst his circling spires, that on the grass  
Floted redundant: pleasing was his shape  
And lovely; never since of serpent kind  
Lovelier, not those that in Illyria chang'd 505  
Hermione and Cadmus, or the god  
In Epidaurus; nor to which transform'd  
Ammonian Jove, or Capitoline was seen,  
He with Olympias, this with her who bore  
Scipio the highth of Rome. With tract oblique 510  
At first, as one who sought access, but fear'd

To interrupt, side-long he works his way.  
As when a ship by skilful steersman wrought  
Nigh river's mouth or foreland, where the wind  
Veers oft, as oft so steers, and shifts her sail: 515  
So varied he, and of his tortuous train  
Curl'd many a wanton wreath in sight of Eve,  
To lure her eye; she busied heard the sound  
Of rustling leaves, but minded not, as us'd  
To such disport before her through the field, 520  
From every beast, more duteous at her call,  
Than at Circean call the herd disguis'd.  
He bolder now, uncall'd before her stood,  
But as in gaze admiring: oft he bow'd  
His turret crest, and sleek enamel'd neck, 525  
Fawning, and lick'd the ground whereon she trod.  
His gentle dumb expression turn'd at length  
The eye of Eve to mark his play; he glad  
Of her attention gain'd, with serpent tongue  
Organic, or impulse of vocal air, 530  
His fraudulent temptation thus began.

Wonder not, sovran Mistress, if perhaps  
Thou canst, who art sole wonder; much less arm  
Thy looks, the Heav'n of mildness, with disdain,  
Displeas'd that I approach thee thus, and gaze 535  
Insatiate, I thus single, nor have fear'd  
Thy awful brow, more awful thus retir'd.  
Fairest resemblance of thy Maker fair,  
Thee all things living gaze on, all things thine

By gift, and thy celestial beauty' adore 540  
With ravishment beheld, there best beheld  
Where universally admir'd; but here  
In this inclosure wild, these beasts among,  
Beholders rude, and shallow to discern  
Half what in thee is fair, one man except, 545  
'Who sees thee'? (and what is one?) who shouldst be  
A goddess among gods, ador'd and serv'd [seen  
By angels numberless, thy daily train.

So glaz'd the Tempter, and his poem tun'd;  
Into the heart of Eve his words made way, 550  
Though at the voice much marveling; at length  
Not unamaz'd she thus in answer spake.  
What may this mean? language of man pronounc'd  
By tongue of brute, and human sense express'd?  
The first at least of these I thought deny'd 555  
To beasts, whom God on their creation-day  
Created mute to all articulate sound;  
The latter I demur, for in their looks  
Much reason, and in their actions oft appears.  
Thee, Serpent, subtlest beast of all the field 560  
I knew, but not with human voice indu'd;  
Redouble then this miracle, and say,  
How cam'it thou speakable of mute, and how  
To me so friendly grown above the rest  
Of brutal kind, that daily are in fight? 565  
Say, for such wonder claims attention due.  
To whom the guileful Tempter thus reply'd.



Empress of this fair world, resplendent Eve,  
Easy to me it is to tell thee all 569  
What thou command'st, and right thou shouldst be  
I was at first as other beasts that graze [obey'd:  
The trodden herb, of abject thoughts and low,  
As was my food; nor ought but food discern'd  
Or sex, and apprehended nothing high:  
Till on a day roving the field, I chanc'd 575  
A goodly tree far distant to behold  
Loaden with fruit of fairest colors mix'd,  
Ruddy and gold: I nearer drew to gaze;  
When from the boughs a savory odor blown,  
Grateful to appetite, more pleas'd my sense 580  
Than smell of sweetest fenel, or the teats  
Of ewe or goat dropping with milk at even,  
Unfuck'd of lamb or kid, that tend their play.  
To satisfy the sharp desire I had  
Of tasting those fair apples, I resolv'd 585  
Not to defer; hunger and thirst at once,  
Powerful persuaders, quicken'd at the sent  
Of that alluring fruit, urg'd me so keen.  
About the mossy trunk I wound me soon,  
For high from ground the branches would require 590  
'Thy utmost reach or Adam's: round the tree  
All other beasts that saw, with like desire  
Longing and envying stood, but could not reach.  
Amid the tree now got, where plenty hung  
Tempting so nigh, to pluck and eat my fill 595

I spar'd not, for such pleasure till that hour  
At feed or fountain never had I found.  
Sated at length, ere long I might perceive  
Strange alteration in me, to degree  
Of reason in my inward powers, and speech 600  
Wanted not long, though to this shape retain'd.  
Thenceforth to speculations high or deep  
I turn'd my thoughts, and with capacious mind  
Consider'd all things visible in Heav'n,  
Or Earth, or Middle, all things fair and good; 605  
But all that fair and good in thy divine  
Semblance, and in thy beauty's heav'nly ray  
United I beheld; no fair to thine  
Equivalent or second, which compell'd  
Me thus, though importune perhaps, to come 610  
And gaze, and worship thee of right declar'd  
Sovran of creatures, universal dame.

So talk'd the spirited fly snake; and Eve  
Yet more amaz'd unwary thus reply'd.  
Serpent, thy overpraising leaves in doubt 615  
The virtue of that fruit, in thee first prov'd:  
But say, where grows the tree, from hence how far?  
For many are the trees of God that grow  
In Paradise, and various, yet unknown  
To us, in such abundance lies our choice, 620  
As leaves a greater store of fruit untouch'd,  
Still hanging incorruptible, till men  
Grow up to their provision, and more hands

Help to disburden Nature of her birth.

To whom the wily adder, blithe and glad. 625

Empress, the way is ready, and not long,

Beyond a row of myrtles, on a flat,

Fast by a fountain, one small thicket past

Of blowing myrrh and balm; if thou accept

My conduct, I can bring thee thither soon. 630

Lead then, said Eve. He leading swiftly roll'd

In tangles, and made intricate seem strait,

To mischief swift. Hope elevates, and joy

Brightens his crest. As when a wand'ring fire,

Compact of unctuous vapor, which the night 635

Condenses, and the cold environs round,

Kindled through agitation to a flame,

Which oft, they say, some evil spi'rit attends,

Hovering and blazing with delusive light,

Misleads th' amaz'd night-wand'rer from his way 640

To bogs and mires, and oft through pond or pool,

Th ere swallow'd up and lost, from succour far,

So glister'd the dire snake, and into fraud

Led Eve our credulous mother, to the tree

Of Prohibition, root of all our woe; 645

Which when she saw, thus to her guide she spake.

Serpent, we might have spar'd our coming hither,

Fruitless to me, though fruit be here to' excess,

The credit of whose virtue rest with thee,

Wondrous indeed, if cause of such effects. 650

But of this tree we may not taste nor touch;

God so commanded, and left that command  
Sole daughter of his Voice; the rest, we live  
Law to ourselves, our reason is our law.

To whom the Tempter guilefully reply'd. 655  
Indeed? hath God then said that of the fruit  
Of all these garden trees ye shall not eat,  
Yet lo! is declar'd of all in earth or air?

To whom thus Eve yet sinless. Of the fruit  
Of each tree in the garden we may eat, 660  
But of the fruit of this fair tree amidst  
The garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat  
Thereof, nor shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

She scarce had said, though brief, when now more  
The Tempter, but with show of zeal and love [bold  
To man, and indignation at his wrong, 666  
New part puts on, and as to passion mov'd,  
Fluctuates disturb'd, yet comely and in act  
Rais'd, as of some great matter to begin.  
As when of old some orator renown'd 670

In Athens or free Rome, where Eloquence  
Flourish'd, since mute, to some great cause address'd  
Stood in himself collected, while each part,  
Motion, each act won audience ere the tongue,  
Sometimes in highth began, as no delay 675  
Of preface brooking through his zeal of right:  
So standing, moving, or to highth up grown,  
The Tempter all impassion'd thus began.

O sacred, wise, and wisdom-giving Plant,

Mother of Science, now I feel thy power 680  
Within me clear, not only to discern  
Things in their causes, but to trace the ways  
Of highest agents, deem'd however wise.  
Queen of this Universe, do not believe  
Those rigid threats of death; ye shall not die: 685  
How should you? by the fruit? it gives you life  
To knowledge; by the Threatner? look on me,  
Me who have touch'd and tasted, yet both live,  
And life more perfect have attain'd than Fate  
Meant me, by vent'ring higher than my lot. 690  
Shall that be shut to man, which to the beast  
Is open? or will God incense his ire  
For such a petty trespass, and not praise  
Rather your dauntless virtue, whom the pain  
Of death denounc'd, whatever thing death be, 695  
Deterr'd not from achieving what might lead  
To happier life, knowledge of good and evil;  
Of good, how just? of evil, if what is evil  
Be real, why not known, since easier shunn'd?  
God therefore cannot hurt you and be just; 700  
Not just, not God; not fear'd then, nor obey'd:  
Your fear itself of death removes the fear.  
Why then was this forbid? why but to awe,  
Why but to keep ye low and ignorant,  
His worshippers; he knows that in the day 705  
Ye eat thereof, your eyes that seem so clear,  
Yet are but dim, shall perfectly be then



Open'd and clear'd, and ye shall be as gods,  
Knowing both good and evil as they know.  
That ye shall be as gods, since I as man, 710  
Internal man, is but proportion meet;  
I of brute human, ye of human gods.  
So ye shall die perhaps, by putting off  
Humanity to put on gods; death to be wish'd, 714  
Tho' threaten'd, which no worse than this can bring.  
And what are gods that man may not become  
As they, participating godlike food?  
The gods are first, and that advantage use  
On our belief, that all from them proceeds;  
I question it, for this fair Earth I see, 720  
Warm'd by the sun, producing every kind,  
Them nothing: if they all things, who inclos'd  
Knowledge of good and evil in this tree,  
That whoe eats thereof, forthwith attains  
Wisdom without their leave? and wherein lies 725  
Th' offense, that man should thus attain to know?  
What can your knowledge hurt him, or this tree  
Impart against his will if all be his?  
Or is it envy, and can envy dwell  
In heav'nly breasts? these, these and many more 730  
Causes import your need of this fair fruit.  
Goddeſs Humane, reach then, and freely taſte.  
He ended, and his words replete with guile  
Into her heart too eaſy entrance won:  
Fix'd on the fruit ſhe gaz'd, which to behold 735

Might tempt alone, and in her ears the sound  
Yet rung of his persuasive words, impregn'd  
With reason, to her seeming, and with truth;  
Mean while the hour of noon drew on, and wak'd  
An eager appetite, rais'd by the smell 740  
So savory of that fruit, which with desire  
Inclinable now grown to touch or taste,  
Solicited her longing eye; yet first  
Pausing a while, thus to herself she mus'd.

Great are thy virtues, doubtless, best of fruits, 745  
Though kept from man, and worthy to be admir'd,  
Whose taste, too long forborn, at first assay  
Gave elocution to the mute, and taught  
The tongue not made for speech to speak thy praise:  
Thy praise he also who forbids thy use, 750  
Conceals not from us, naming thee the Tree  
Of Knowledge, knowledge both of good and evil;  
Forbids us then to taste, but his forbidding  
Commends thee more, while it infers the good  
By thee communicated, and our want: 755  
For good unknown, sure is not had, or had  
And yet unknown, is as not had at all.  
In plain then, what forbids he but to know,  
Forbids us good, forbids us to be wise?  
Such prohibitions bind not. But if death 760  
Binds us with after-bands, what profits then  
Our inward freedom? In the day we eat  
Of this fair fruit, our doom is, we shall die.

How dies the serpent? he hath eat'n and lives,  
And knows, and speaks, and reasons, and discerns,  
Irrational till then. For us alone 766

Was death invented? or to us deny'd  
This intellectual food, for beasts reserv'd?  
For beasts it seems: yet that one beast which first  
Hath fasted, envies not, but brings with joy 770

The good befall'n him, author unsuspect,  
Friendly to man, far from deceit or guile.  
What fear I then, rather what know to fear  
Under this ignorance of good and evil,  
Of God or death, of law or penalty? 775

Here grows the cure of all, this fruit divine,  
Fair to the eye, inviting to the taste,  
Of virtue to make wise: what hinders then  
To reach, and feed at once both body' and mind?

So saying, her rash hand in evil hour 780  
Forth reaching to the fruit, she pluck'd, she ate:  
Earth felt the wound, and Nature from her seat  
Sighing through all her works gave signs of woe,  
That all was lost. Back to the thicket slunk  
The guilty serpent, and well might, for Eve 785

Intent now wholly on her taste, nought else  
Regarded, such delight till then, as seem'd,  
In fruit she never tasted, whether true  
Or fancy'd so, through expectation high  
Of knowledge, nor was Godhead from her thought.  
Greedily she ingorg'd without restraint, 791

And knew not eating death : satiate at length,  
And highten'd as with wine, jocond and boon,  
Thus to herself she pleasingly began.

O sovran, virtuous, precious of all trees      795  
In Paradise, of operation blest'd  
To sapience, hitherto obscur'd, infam'd,  
And thy fair fruit let hang, as to no end  
Created ; but henceforth my early care,  
Not without song, each morning, and due praise, 800  
Shall tend thee, and the fertile burden ease  
Of thy full branches offer'd free to all ;  
Till dieted by thee I grow mature  
In knowledge, as the gods who all things know ;  
Though others envy what they cannot give ;      805  
For had the gift been theirs, it had not here  
Thus grown. Experience, next to thee I owe,  
Best guide ; not following thee I had remain'd  
In ignorance ; thou open'st Wisdom's way,  
And giv'st access, though secret she retire.      810  
And I perhaps am secret ; Heav'n is high,  
High, and remote to see from thence distinct  
Each thing on Earth ; and other care perhaps  
May have diverted from continual watch  
Our great Forbidder, safe with all his spies      815  
About him. But to Adam in what sort  
Shall I appear ? shall I to him make known  
As yet my change, and give him to partake  
Full happiness with me, or rather not,

But keep the odds of knowledge in my power 820  
Without copartner? so to add what wants  
In female sex, the more to draw his love,  
And render me more equal, and perhaps,  
A thing not undefirable, sometime  
Superior: for inferior who is free? 825  
This may be well: but what if God have seen,  
And death ensue? then I shall be no more,  
And Adam wedded to another Eve,  
Shall live with her enjoying, I extinct;  
A death to think. Confirm'd then I resolve, 830  
Adam shall share with me in bliss or woe:  
So dear I love him, that with him all deaths  
I could endure, without him live no life.

So saying, from the tree her step she turn'd,  
But first low reverence done, as to the Power 835  
That dwelt within, whose presence had infus'd  
Into the plant scintillial sap, deriv'd  
From nectar, drink of gods. Adam the while  
Waiting desirous her return, had wove  
Of choicest flowers a garland to adorn 840  
Her tresses, and her rural labours crown,  
As reapers oft are wont their harvest queen.  
Great joy he promis'd to his thoughts, and new  
Solace in her return, so long delay'd;  
Yet oft his heart, divine of something ill, 845  
Mistake him; he the faltring measure felt;  
And forth to meet her went, the way she took



That morn when first they parted; by the tree  
Of Knowledge he must pass, there he her met,  
Scarce from the tree returning; in her hand 850  
A bough of fairest fruit, that downy smil'd,  
New gather'd, and ambrosial smell diffus'd.  
To him she hasted; in her face Excuse  
Came prologue, and Apology too prompt,  
Which with bland words at will she thus address'd.

Hast thou not wonder'd, Adam, at my stay? 856  
Thee I have miss'd, and thought it long, depriv'd  
Thy presence, agony of love till now  
Not felt, nor shall be twice, for never more  
Mean I to try, what rash untry'd I sought, 860  
The pain of absence from thy sight. But strange  
Hath been the cause, and wonderful to hear:  
This tree is not as we are told, a tree  
Of danger tasted, nor to' evil unknown  
Opening the way, but of divine effect 865  
To open eyes, and make them gods who taste;  
And hath been tasted such; the serpent wise,  
Or not restrain'd as we, or not obeying,  
Hath eaten of the fruit, and is become,  
Not dead, as we are threaten'd, but thenceforth 870  
Indued with human voice and human sense,  
Reasoning to admiration, and with me  
Persuasively hath so prevail'd, that I  
Have also tasted, and have also found  
Th' effects to correspond, opener mine eyes, 875

Dim erst, dilated spirits, ampler heart,  
And growing up to Godhead; which for thee  
Chiefly I fought, without thee can despise.  
For bliss, as thou hast part, to me is bliss,  
Tedious, unshar'd with thee, and odious soon. 880

Thou therefore also taste, that equal lot  
May join us, equal joy, as equal love;  
Lest thou not tasting, different degree  
Disjoin us, and I then too late renounce  
Deity for thee, when Fate will not permit. 885

Thus Eve with count'nance blithe her story told;  
But in her cheek Distemper flushing glow'd.  
On th' other side, Adam, soon as he heard  
The fatal trespass done by Eve, amaz'd,  
Astonied stood and blank, while horror chill 890  
Ran through his veins, and all his joints relax'd;  
From his slack hand the garland wreath'd for Eve  
Down dropt, and all the faded roses shed:  
Speechless he stood and pale, till thus at length  
First to himself he inward silence broke. 895

O fairest of Creation, last and best  
Of all God's works, creature in whom excell'd  
Whatever can to sight or thought be form'd,  
Holy, divine, good, amiable, or sweet!  
How art thou lost, how on a sudden lost, 900  
Defac'd, deflower'd, and now to death devote?  
Rather how hast thou yielded to transgress  
The strict forbiddance, how to violate

The sacred fruit forbidd'n? some cursed fraud  
Of enemy hath beguil'd thee, yet unknown, 905  
And me with thee hath ruin'd, for with thee  
Certain my resolution is to die;  
How can I live without thee, how forego  
Thy sweet converse, and love so dearly join'd,  
To live again in these wild woods forlorn? 910  
Should God create another Eve, and I  
Another rib afford, yet loss of thee  
Would never from my heart; no no, I feel  
The link of Nature draw me: flesh of flesh,  
Bone of my bone thou art, and from thy state 915  
Mine never shall be parted, bliss or woe.

So having said, as one from sad dismay  
Recomforted, and after thoughts disturb'd  
Submitting to what seem'd remediless,  
Thus in calm mood his words to Eve he turn'd. 920

Bold deed thou hast presum'd, adventurous Eve,  
And peril great provok'd, who thus hast dar'd,  
Had it been only coveting to eye  
That sacred fruit, sacred to abstinence,  
Much more to taste it under ban to touch. 925  
But past who can recal, or done undo?  
Not God omnipotent, nor Fate; yet so  
Perhaps thou shalt not die, perhaps the fact  
Is not so hainous now, foretasted fruit,  
Profan'd first by the serpent, by him first 930  
Made common and unhallow'd ere our taste;

Nor yet on him found deadly, he yet lives,  
Lives, as thou saidst, and gains to live as man  
Higher degree of life, inducement strong  
To us, as likely tasting to attain 933  
Proportional ascent, which cannot be  
But to be gods, or angels demi-gods.  
Nor can I think that God, Creator wise,  
Though threat'ning, will in earnest so destroy  
Us his prime creatures, dignify'd so high, 940  
Set over all his works, which in our fall,  
For us created, needs with us must fail,  
Dependent made; so God shall uncreate,  
Be frustrate, do, undo, and labor lose,  
Not well conceiv'd of God, who though his power  
Creation could repeat, yet would be loath 946  
Us to abolish, lest the Adversary  
Triumph and say; Fickle their state whom God  
Most favors; who can please him long? Me first  
He ruin'd, now mankind; whom will he next? 950  
Matter of scorn, not to be given the Foe.  
However I with thee have fix'd my lot,  
Certain to undergo like doom; if death  
Confort with thee, death is to me as life;  
So forcible within my heart I feel 955  
The bond of Nature draw me to my own,  
My own in thee, for what thou art is mine;  
Our state cannot be sever'd, we are one,  
One flesh; to lose thee were to lose myself.

So Adam, and thus Eve to him reply'd. 960  
O glorious trial of exceeding love,  
Illustrious evidence, example high!  
Engaging me to emulate, but short  
Of thy perfection, how shall I attain,  
Adam? from whose dear side I boast me sprung, 965  
And gladly of our union hear thee speak,  
One heart, one soul in both; whereof good proof  
This day affords, declaring thee resolv'd,  
Rather than death or ought than death more dread  
Shall separate us, link'd in love so dear, 970  
To undergo with me one guilt, one crime,  
If any be, of tasting this fair fruit,  
Whose virtue (for of good still good proceeds,  
Direct or by occasion) hath presented  
This happy trial of thy love, which else 975  
So eminently never had been known.  
Were it I thought death menac'd would ensue  
This my attempt, I would sustain alone  
The worst, and not persuade thee, rather die  
Deserted, than oblige thee with a fact 980  
Pernicious to thy peace, chiefly assur'd  
Remarkably so late of thy so true,  
So faithful love unequal'd; but I feel  
Far otherwise th' event, not death, but life  
Augmented, open'd eyes, new hopes, new joys, 985  
Taste so divine, that what of sweet before  
Hath touch'd my sense, flat seems to this, and harsh.



On my experience, Adam, freely taste,  
And fear of death deliver to the winds.

So saying, she embrac'd him, and for joy 990

Tenderly wept, much won that he his love  
Had so ennobled, as of choice to' incur  
Divine displeasure for her sake, or death.

In recompense (for such compliance bad  
Such recompense best merits) from the bough 995

She gave him of that fair enticing fruit

With liberal hand : he scrupled not to eat

Against his better knowledge, not deceiv'd,

But fondly overcome with female charm.

Earth trembled from her entrails, as again 1000

In pangs, and Nature gave a second groan,

Sky lour'd, and, muttering thunder, some sad drops

Wept at completing of the mortal sin

Original ; while Adam took no thought,

Eating his fill, nor Eve to iterate 1005

Her former trespasses fear'd, the more to sooth

Him with her lov'd society, that now

As with new wine intoxicated both

They swim in mirth, and fancy that they feel

Divinity within them breeding wings, 1010

Wherewith to scorn the Earth : but that false fruit

Far other operation first display'd,

Carnal desire inflaming ; he on Eve

Began to cast lascivious eyes, she him

As wantonly repaid ; in lust they burn : 1015

Till Adam thus 'gan Eve to dalliance move.

Eve, now I see thou art exact of taste,  
And elegant, of sapience no small part,  
Since to each meaning favor we apply,  
And palate call judicious; I the praise 1020  
Yield thee, so well this day thou hast purvey'd.  
Much pleasure we have lost, while we abstain'd  
From this delightful fruit, nor known till now  
True relish, tasting; if such pleasure be  
In things to us forbidd'n, it might be wish'd, 1025  
For this one tree had been forbidden ten.  
But come, so well refresh'd, now let us play,  
As meet is, after such delicious fare;  
For never did thy beauty since the day  
I saw thee first and wedded thee, adorn'd 1030  
With all perfections, so inflame my sense  
With ardor to enjoy thee, fairer now  
Than eyer, bounty of this virtuous tree.

So said he, and forebore not glance or toy  
Of amorous intent, well understood 1035  
Of Eve, whose eye darted contagious fire.  
Her hand he seiz'd, and to a shady bank,  
Thick overhead with verdant roof imbower'd,  
He led her nothing loath; flowers were the couch,  
Pansies and violets, and asphodel, 1040  
And hyacinth, Earth's freshest softest lap.  
There they their fill of love and love's disport  
Took largely, of their mutual guilt the seal,

The solace of their sin, till dewy sleep  
Oppress'd them, wearied with their amorous play.  
Soon as the force of that fallacious fruit, 1046  
That with exhilarating vapor bland  
About their spi'rits had play'd, and inmost powers  
Made ear, was now exhal'd; and grosser sleep  
Bred of unkindly fumes, with conscious dreams 1050  
Incumber'd, now had left them; up they rose  
As from unrest, and each the other viewing,  
Soon found their eyes how open'd, and their minds  
How darken'd; Innocence, that as a veil  
Had shadow'd them from knowing ill, was gone,  
Just Confidence, and native Righteousness, 1056  
And Honor from about them, naked left  
To guilty Shame; he cover'd, but his robe  
Uncover'd more. So rose the Danite strong  
Herculean Samson from the harlot-lap 1060  
Of Philistean Dalilah, and wak'd  
Shorn of his strength, they destitute and bare  
Of all their virtue: silent, and in face  
Confounded long they sat, as stricken mute,  
Till Adam, though not less than Eve abash'd, 1065  
At length gave utterance to these words constrain'd.  
O Eve, in evil hour thou didst give ear  
To that false Worm, of whomsoever taught  
To counterfeit man's voice, true in our fall,  
False in our promis'd rising; since our eyes 1070  
Open'd we find indeed, and find we know

Both good and ev'il, good lost, and evil got,  
Bad fruit of knowledge, if this be to know,  
Which leaves us naked thus, of honor void,  
Of innocence, of faith, of purity, 1075  
Our wonted ornaments now soil'd and stain'd,  
And in our faces evident the signs  
Of foul concupiscence; whence evil store;  
Ev'n shame, the last of evils; of the first  
Be sure then. How shall I behold the face 1080  
Henceforth of God or angel, erst with joy  
And rapture so oft beheld? those heav'nly shapes  
Will dazzle now this earthly with their blaze  
Insufferably bright. O might I here  
In solitude live savage, in some glade 1085  
Obscur'd, where highest woods impenetrable  
To star or sun-light, spread their umbrage broad  
And brown as evening: cover me ye Pines,  
Ye Cedars, with innumerable boughs  
Hide me, where I may never see them more. 1090  
But let us now, as in bad plight, devise  
What best may for the present serve to hide  
The parts of each from other, that seem most  
To shame obnoxious, and unseemliest seen;  
Some tree, whose broad smooth leaves together sow'd,  
And girded on our loins, may cover round 1096  
Those middle parts, that this new comer, Shame,  
There fit not, and reproach us as unclean.  
So counsel'd he, and both together went

Into the thickest wood; there soon they chose 1100  
The fig-tree, not that kind for fruit renown'd,  
But such as at this day to Indians known  
In Malabar or Decan spreads her arms  
Branching so broad and long, that in the ground  
The bended twigs take root, and daughters grow  
About the mother tree, a pillar'd shade 1106  
High overarch'd, and echoing walks between;  
There oft the Indian herdsman shunning heat  
Shelters in cool, and tends his pasturing herds  
At loopholes cut through thickest shade: those leaves  
They gather'd, broad as Amazonian targe, 1111  
And with what skill they had, together sow'd,  
To gird their waste, vain covering if to hide  
Their guilt and dreaded shame; O how unlike  
To that first naked glory! Such of late 1115  
Columbus found th' American, so girt  
With feather'd cincture, naked else and wild  
Among the trees on isles and woody shores.  
Thus fenc'd, and as they thought, their shame in part  
Cover'd, but not at rest or ease of mind, 1120  
They sat them down to weep; nor only tears  
Rain'd at their eyes, but high winds worse within  
Began to rise, high passions, anger, hate,  
Mistrust, suspicion, discord, and shook sore  
Their inward state of mind, calm region once 1125  
And full of peace, now tost and turbulent:  
For Understanding rul'd not, and the Will



Heard not her lore, both in subjection now  
To sensual Appetite, who from beneath  
Usurping over sovran Reason clam'd 1130  
Superior sway: from thus distemper'd breast,  
Adam, estrang'd in look and alter'd stile,  
Speech intermitted thus to Eve renew'd.

Would thou hadst hearken'd to my words, and stay'd  
With me, as I besought thee, when that strange 1135  
Desire of wand'ring this unhappy morn,  
I know not whence possess'd thee; we had then  
Remain'd still happy, not as now, despoil'd  
Of all our good, sham'd, naked, miserable.  
Let none henceforth seek needless cause to' approve  
The faith they owe; when earnestly they seek 1141  
Such proof, conclude, they then begin to fail.

To whom soon mov'd with touch of blame thus Eve.  
What words have pass'd thy lips, Adam severe!  
Imput'st thou that to my default, or will 1145  
Of wand'ring, as thou call'st it, which who knows  
But might as ill have happen'd thou being by,  
Or to thyself perhaps? Hadst thou been there,  
Or here th' attempt, thou couldst not have discern'd  
Fraud in the serpent, speaking as he spake; 1150  
No ground of enmity between us known,  
Why he should mean me ill, or seek to harm.  
Was I to' have never parted from thy side?  
As good have grown there still a lifeless rib.  
Being as I am, why didst not thou the head 1155

Command me absolutely not to go,  
Going into such danger as thou saidst?  
Too facil then thou didst not much gainsay,  
Nay didst permit, approve, and fair dismiss.  
Hadst thou been firm and fix'd in thy dissent, 1160  
Neither had I transgress'd, nor thou with me.

To whom then first incens'd Adam reply'd.  
Is this the love, is this the recompense  
Of mine to thee, ingrateful Eve, express'd  
Immutable when thou wert lost, not I, 1165  
Who might have liv'd and joy'd immortal blifs,  
Yet willingly chose rather death with thee?  
And am I now upbraided as the cause  
Of thy transgressing? not enough severe,  
It seems, in thy restraint: what could I more? 1170  
I warn'd thee, I admonish'd thee, foretold  
The danger, and the lurking enemy  
That lay in wait; beyond this had been force,  
And force upon free will hath here no place.  
But confidence then bore thee on, secure 1175  
Either to meet no danger, or to find  
Matter of glorious trial; and perhaps  
I also err'd in overmuch admiring  
What seem'd in thee so perfect, that I thought  
No evil durst attempt thee, but I rue 1180  
That error now, which is become my crime,  
And thou th' accuser. Thus it shall befall  
Him who to worth in women overtrusting

Lets her will rule ; restraint she will not brook,  
And left to' herself, if evil thence ensue, 1185  
She first his weak indulgence will accuse.

Thus they in mutual accusation spent  
The fruitless hours, but neither self-condemning,  
And of their vain contest appear'd no end. 1189

*The End of the Ninth Book.*

# PARADISE LOST.

## BOOK X.

### The Argument.

Man's transgression known, the guardian angels forsake Paradise, and return up to Heaven to approve their vigilance, and are approv'd, God declaring that the entrance of Satan could not be by them prevented. He sends his Son to judge the transgressors, who descends and gives sentence accordingly; then in pity clothes them both, and reascends. Sin and Death sitting till then at the gates of Hell, by wondrous sympathy feeling the success of Satan in this new world, and the sin by man there committed, resolve to sit no longer confin'd in Hell, but to follow Satan their sire up to the place of Man: to make the way easier from Hell to this world to and fro, they pave a broad high-way or bridge over Chaos, according to the track that Satan first made; then preparing for Earth, they meet him proud of his success returning to Hell; their mutual gratulation. Satan arrives at Pandemonium, in full assembly relates with boasting his success against Man; instead of applause is entertained with a general hiss by all his audience, transform'd with himself also suddenly into serpents, according to his doom given in Paradise; then deluded with a shew of the forbidden Tree springing up before them, they greedily reaching to take of the fruit, chew dust and bitter ashes. The proceedings of Sin and Death; God foretels the final victory of his Son over them, and the renewing of all things; but for the present commands his angels to make several alterations in the Heavens and elements. Adam more and more perceiving his fall'n condition heavily bewails, rejects the condolment of Eve; she persists, and at length appeases him: then to evade the curse likely to fall on their offspring, proposes to Adam violent ways, which he approves not, but conceiving better hope, puts her in mind of the late promise made them, that her Seed should be reveng'd on the serpent, and exhorts her with him to seek peace of the offended Deity, by repentance and supplication.

MEAN while the hainous and despiteful act  
Of Satan done in Paradise, and how  
He in the serpent had perverted Eve,

Her husband she, to taste the fatal fruit,  
Was known in Heav'n, for what can 'scape the eyes  
Of God all-seeing, or deceive his heart  
Omniscient? who in all things wise and just,  
Hinder'd not Satan to attempt the mind  
Of Man, with strength entire, and free will arm'd  
Complete to have discover'd and repuls'd 10  
Whatever wiles of foe or seeming friend.  
For still they knew and ought to 'have still remember'd  
The high injunction not to taste that fruit,  
Whoever tempted; which they not obeying,  
Incurr'd (what could they less?) the penalty, 15  
And manifold in sin, deserv'd to fall.  
Up into Heav'n from Paradise in haste  
Th' angelic guards ascended, mute and sad  
For man, for of his state by this they knew,  
Much wond'ring how the subtle Fiend had stol'n 20  
Entrance unseen. Soon as th' unwelcome news  
From Earth arriv'd at Heaven gate, displeas'd  
All were who heard; dim Sadness did not spare  
That time celestial visages, yet mix'd  
With pity, violated not their blifs. 25  
About the new-arriv'd, in multitudes  
Th' ethereal people ran, to hear and know  
How all befel: they tow'ards the throne supreme  
Accountable made haste to make appear  
With righteous plea their utmost vigilance, 30  
And easily approv'd; when the Most High



Eternal Father, from his secret cloud,  
Amidst in thunder utter'd thus his voice.  
Assembled Angels, and ye Pow'rs return'd  
From unsuccessful charge, be not dismay'd, 35  
Nor troubled at these tidings from the Earth,  
Which your sincerest care could not prevent,  
Foretold so lately what would come to pass,  
When first this Tempter cross'd the gulf from Hell.  
I told ye then he should prevail and speed 40  
On his bad errand, man should be seduc'd  
And flatter'd out of all, believing lies  
Against his Maker; no decree of mine  
Concurring to necessitate his fall,  
Or touch with lightest moment of impulse 45  
His free will, to her own inclining left  
In even scale. But fall'n he is, and now  
What rests, but that the mortal sentence pass  
On his transgression, death denounc'd that day?  
Which he presumes already vain and void, 50  
Because not yet inflicted, as he fear'd,  
By some immediate stroke; but soon shall find  
Forbearance no acquittance ere day end.  
Justice shall not return as bounty scorn'd.  
But whom send I to judge them? whom but thee 55  
Vicegerent Son? to thee I have transferr'd  
All judgment, whether in Heav'n, or Earth, or Hell.  
Easy it may be seen that I intend  
Mercy colleague with justice, sending thee

Man's friend, his mediator, his design'd 60  
Both ranfome and redeemer voluntary,  
And deftin'd Man himfelf to judge man fall'n.

So fpake the Father, and unfolding bright  
Tow'ard the right hand his glory, on the Son  
Blaz'd forth unclouded deity; he full 65  
Refplendent all his Father manifelt  
Exprefs'd, and thus divinely anfwer'd mild.<sup>o</sup>

Father Eternal, thine is to decree,  
Mine both in Heav'n and Earth to do thy will  
Supreme, that thou in me thy Son belov'd 70  
May'ft ever reft well pleas'd. I go to judge  
On Earth thefe thy tranfgreffors, but thou know'ft,  
Whoever judg'd, the worft on me muft light,  
When time fhall be, for fo I undertook  
Before thee'; and not repenting, this obtain 75  
Of right, that I may mitigate their doom  
On me deriv'd, yet I fhall temper fo  
Juftice with mercy', as may illuftrate moft  
Them fully fatisfy'd, and thee appeafe. 79  
Attendance none fhall need, nor train, where none  
Are to behold the judgment, but the judg'd,  
Thofe two; the third beft abfent is condemn'd,  
Convict by flight, and rebel to all law:  
Conviction to the ferpent none belongs.

Thus faying, from his radiant feat he rofe 85  
Of high collateral glory': him thrones and powers,  
Princedom, and dominations miniftrant

Accompanied to Heav'n gate, from whence  
Eden and all the coast in prospect lay.  
Down he descended strait; the speed of gods 90  
Time counts not, tho' with swiftest minutes wing'd.  
Now was the sun in western cadence low  
From noon, and gentle airs due at their hour  
To fan the Earth now wak'd, and usher in  
The ev'ning cool, when he from wrath more cool 95  
Came the mild judge and intercessor both  
To sentence Man: the voice of God they heard  
Now walking in the garden, by soft winds  
Brought to their ears, while day declin'd; they heard,  
And from his presence hid themselves among 100  
The thickest trees, both man and wife, till God  
Approaching, thus to Adam call'd aloud.  
Where art thou Adam, wont with joy to meet  
My coming seen far off? I miss thee here,  
Not pleas'd, thus entertain'd with solitude, 105  
Where obvious duty' ere while appear'd unfought:  
Or come I less conspicuous? or what change  
Absents thee, or what chance detains? Come forth.  
He came, and with him Eve, more loath, though first  
To' offend, discount'nanc'd both, and discompos'd;  
Love was not in their looks, either to God 111  
Or to each other, but apparent guilt,  
And shame, and perturbation, and despair,  
Anger, and obstinacy', and hate, and guile.  
Whence Adam faltering long, thus answer'd brief.

I heard thee in the gard'n, and of thy voice 116  
Afraid, being naked, hid myself. To whom  
The gracious Judge without revile reply'd.  
My voice thou oft hast heard, and hast not fear'd,  
But still rejoic'd; how is it now become 120  
So dreadful to thee? that thou' art naked who  
Hath told thee? hast thou eaten of the Tree,  
Whereof I gave thee charge thou shouldst not eat?

To whom thus Adam fore beset reply'd.  
O Heav'n! in evil strait this day I stand 125  
Before my Judge, either to undergo  
Myself the total crime, or to accuse  
My other self, the partner of my life;  
Whose failing, while her faith to me remains,  
I should conceal, and not expose to blame 130  
By my complaint; but strict Necessity  
Subdues me, and calamitous Constraint,  
Lest on my head both sin and punishment,  
However insupportable, be all  
Devolv'd; though should I hold my peace, yet thou  
Wouldst easily detect what I conceal. 136  
This Woman, whom thou mad'st to be my help,  
And gav'st me as thy perfect gift, so good,  
So fit, so acceptable, so divine,  
That from her hand I could suspect no ill, 140  
And what she did, whatever in itself,  
Her doing seem'd to justify the deed;  
She gave me of the Tree, and I did eat.

To whom the Sovran Prefence thus reply'd.  
Was she thy God, that her thou didst obey 145  
Before his voice, or was she made thy guide,  
Superior, or but equal, that to her  
Thou didst resign thy manhood, and the place  
Wherein God set thee' above her, made of thee,  
'And for thee, whose perfection far excell'd 150  
Hers in all real dignity? Adorn'd  
She was indeed, and lovely to attract  
Thy love, not thy subjection; and her gifts  
Were such as under government well seem'd,  
Unseemly to bear rule, which was thy part 155  
And person, hadst thou known thyself aright.

So having said, he thus to Eve in few.  
Say Woman, what is this which thou hast done?

To whom sad Eve with shame nigh overwhelm'd,  
Confessing soon, yet not before her Judge 160  
Bold or loquacious, thus abash'd reply'd.  
The serpent me beguil'd, and I did eat.

Which when the Lord God heard, without delay  
To judgment he proceeded on th' accus'd  
Serpent though brute, unable to transfer 165  
The guilt on him who made him instrument  
Of mischief, and polluted from the end  
Of his creation; justly then accus'd,  
As vitiated in nature: more to know  
Concern'd not man (since he no further knew) 170  
Nor alter'd his offence; yet God at last



'To Satan first in sin his doom apply'd,  
'Though in myſterious terms, judg'd as then beſt :  
And on the ſerpent thus his curſe let fall.  
Because thou haſt done this, thou art accurs'd 175  
Above all cattel, each beaſt of the field;  
Upon thy belly groveling thou ſhalt go,  
And duſt ſhalt eat all the days of thy life.  
Between thee and the woman I will put  
Enmity, and between thine and her Seed; 180  
Her Seed ſhall bruife thy head, thou bruife his heel.

So ſpake this Oracle, then verify'd  
When Jeſus ſon of Mary, ſecond Eve,  
Saw Satan fall like lightning down from Heav'n,  
Prince of the Air; then riſing from his grave 185  
Spoil'd principalities and powers, triumph'd  
In open ſhow, and with aſcenſion bright  
Captivity led captive through the air,  
The realm itſelf of Satan long uſurp'd,  
Whom he ſhall tread at laſt under our feet; 190  
Ev'n he who now foretold his fatal bruife,  
And to the woman thus his ſentence turn'd.  
'Thy ſorrow I will greatly multiply  
By thy conception; children thou ſhalt bring  
In ſorrow forth; and to thy huſband's will 195  
Thine ſhall ſubmit; he over thee ſhall rule.

On Adam laſt thus judgment he pronounc'd.  
Because thou' haſt hearken'd to th' voice of thy wife,  
And eaten of the tree, concerning which 199

I charg'd thee, say'ing, Thou shalt not eat thereof:  
Curs'd is the ground for thy sake; thou in sorrow  
Shalt eat thereof all the days of thy life;  
Thorns also' and thistles it shall bring thee forth  
Unbid; and thou shalt eat th' herb of the field,  
In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, 205  
'Till thou return unto the ground; for thou  
Out of the ground wast taken; know thy birth,  
For dust thou art, and shalt to dust return.

So judg'd he Man, both Judge and Saviour sent,  
And th' instant stroke of death denounc'd that day  
Remov'd far off; then pitying how they stood 211  
Before him naked to the air, that now  
Must suffer change, disdain'd not to begin  
'Thenceforth the form of servant to assume,  
As when he wash'd his servants' feet, so now 215  
As father of his family he clad  
Their nakedness with skins of beasts, or slain,  
Or as the snake with youthful coat repaid;  
And thought not much to clothe his enemies:  
Nor he their outward only with the skins 220  
Of beasts, but inward nakedness, much more  
Opprobrious, with his robe of righteousness,  
Arraying cover'd from his Father's sight.  
To him with swift ascent he up return'd,  
Into his blisful bosom reassum'd 225  
In glory as of old; to him appeas'd  
All, though all-knowing, what had pass'd with man

Recounted, mixing intercession sweet.

Mean while ere thus was finn'd and judg'd on Earth,  
Within the gates of Hell sat Sin and Death, 230  
In counterview within the gates, that now  
Stood open wide, belching outrageous flame  
Far into Chaos, since the Fiend pass'd through,  
Sin opening, who thus now to Death began.

O Son, why sit we here each other viewing 235  
Idly, while Satan our great author thrives  
In other worlds, and happier seat provides  
For us his offspring dear? It cannot be  
But that success attends him; if mishap,  
Ere this he had return'd, with fury driven 240  
By his avengers, since no place like this  
Can fit his punishment, or their revenge.  
Methinks I feel new strength within me rise,  
Wings growing, and dominion giv'n me large  
Beyond this deep; whatever draws me on, 245  
Or sympathy, or some connatural force  
Powerful at greatest distance to unite  
With secret amity things of like kind  
By secretest conveyance. Thou my shade  
Inseparable must with me along: 250  
For Death from Sin no power can separate.  
But lest the difficulty' of passing back  
Stay his return perhaps over this gulf  
Impassable, impervious, let us try  
Adventrous work, yet to thy power and mine 255

Not unagreeable, to found a path  
Over this main from Hell to that new world  
Where Satan now prevails, a monument  
Of merit high to all th' infernal host,  
Easing their passage hence, for intercourse, 260  
Or transmigration, as their lot shall lead.  
Nor can I miss the way, so strongly drawn  
By this new-felt attraction and instinct.

Whom thus the meager Shadow answer'd soon.  
Go whither Fate and Inclination strong 265  
Leads thee; I shall not lag behind, nor err  
The way, thou leading, such a sent I draw  
Of carnage, prey innumerable, and taste  
The savor of Death from all things there that live :  
Nor shall I to the work thou enterprisest 270  
Be wanting, but afford thee equal aid.

So saying, with delight he snuff'd the smell  
Of mortal change on Earth. As when a flock  
Of ravenous fowl, though many a league remote,  
Against the day of battel, to a field, 275  
Where armies lie incamp'd, come flying, lur'd  
With sent of living carcasses design'd  
For death, the following day, in bloody fight :  
So sented the grim Feature, and upturn'd  
His nostril wide into the murky air, 280  
Sagacious of his quarry from so far.  
Then both from out Hell gates into the waste  
Wide anarchy of Chaos damp and dark

Flew diverse, and with power (their power was great)  
Hovering upon the waters, what they met 285  
Solid or slimy, as in raging sea  
Toft up and down, together crouded drove  
From each side shoaling tow'ards the mouth of Hell:  
As when two polar winds, blowing adverse  
Upon the Cronian sea, together drive 290  
Mountains of ice, that stop th' imagin'd way  
Beyond Petfora eastward, to the rich  
Cathaian coast. The aggregated foil  
Death with his mace petrific, cold and dry,  
As with a trident smote, and fix'd as firm 295  
As Delos floting once; the rest his look  
Bound with Gorgonian rigor not to move;  
And with Asphaltic slime, broad as the gate,  
Deep to the roots of Hell the gather'd beach  
They fasten'd, and the mole immense wrought on  
Over the foaming deep high arch'd, a bridge 301  
Of length prodigious, joining to the wall  
Immoveable of this now fenceless world  
Forfeit to Death; from hence a passage broad,  
Smooth, easy, inoffensive down to Hell. 305  
So, if great things to small may be compar'd,  
Xerxes, the liberty of Greece to yoke,  
From Susa his Memnonian palace high  
Came to the sea, and over Hellespont  
Bridging his way, Europe with Asia join'd, 310  
And scourg'd with many a stroke th' indignant waves.



Now had they brought the work by wondrous art  
Pontifical, a ridge of pendent rock,  
Over the vex'd abyfs, following the track  
Of Satan to the self-fame place where he 315  
First lighted from his wing, and landed safe  
From out of Chaos, to the outside bare  
Of this round world: with pins of adamant  
And chains they made all fast, too fast they made  
And durable; and now in little space 320  
The confines met of empyréan Heav'n  
And of this world, and on the left hand Hell  
With long reach interpos'd; three several ways  
In fight, to each of these three places led.  
And now their way to Earth they had descry'd, 325  
To Paradise first tending, when behold  
Satan in likeness of an angel bright  
Betwixt the Centaur and the Scorpion steering  
His zenith, while the sun in Aries rose:  
Disguis'd he came, but those his children dear 330  
Their parent soon discern'd, though in disguise.  
He after Eve seduc'd, unminded slunk  
Into the wood fast by, and changing shape  
To' observe the sequel, saw his guileful act  
By Eve, though all unweeting, seconded 335  
Upon her husband, saw their shame that fought  
Vain covertures; but when he saw descend  
The Son of God to judge them, terrify'd  
He fled, not hoping to escape, but shun

The present, fearing guilty what his wrath 340  
Might suddenly inflict; that past, return'd  
By night, and list'ning where the hapless pair  
Sat in their sad discourse, and various plaint,  
'Thence gather'd his own doom, which understood  
Not instant, but of future time, with joy 345  
And tidings fraught, to Hell he now return'd,  
And at the brink of Chaos, near the foot  
Of this new wondrous pontifice, unhop'd  
Met who to meet him came, his offspring dear.  
Great joy was at their meeting, and at sight 350  
Of that stupendous bridge his joy increas'd.  
Long he admiring stood, till Sin, his fair  
Inchanting daughter, thus the silence broke.

O Parent, these are thy magnific deeds,  
Thy trophies, which thou view'st as not thine own;  
Thou art their author and prime architect: 356  
For I no sooner in my heart divin'd,  
My heart, which by a secret harmony  
Still moves with thine, join'd in connexion sweet,  
'That thou on earth hadst prosper'd, which thy looks  
Now also evidence, but strait I felt 361  
Though distant from thee worlds between, yet felt  
That I must after thee with this thy son,  
Such fatal consequence unites us three:  
Hell could no longer hold us in her bounds, 365  
Nor this unvoyageable gulf obscure  
Detain from following thy illustrious track.

Thou hast achiev'd our liberty, confin'd  
Within Hell gates till now, thou us impower'd  
To fortify thus far, and overlay 370  
With this portentous bridge the dark abyfs.  
Thine now is all this world; thy virtue' hath won  
What thy hands builded not, thy wisdom gain'd  
With odds what War hath lost, and fully' aveng'd  
Our foil in Heav'n; here thou shalt monarch reign,  
There didst not; there let him still victor sway, 376  
As battel hath adjudg'd, from this new world  
Retiring, by his own doom alienated,  
And henceforth monarchy with thee divide  
Of all things parted by th' empyreal bounds, 380  
His quadrature, from thy orbicular world,  
Or try thee now more dange'rous to his throne.

Whom thus the Prince of Darknes answer'd glad.  
Fair Daughter, and thou Son and Grandchild both,  
High proof ye now have giv'n to be the race 385  
Of Satan, (for I glory in the name,  
Antagonist of Heav'n's almighty King)  
Amplly have merited of me, of all  
Th' infernal empire, that so near Heav'n's door  
Triumphal with triumphal act have met, 390  
Mine with this glorious work, and made one realm  
Hell and this world, one realm, one continent  
Of easy thorough-fare. Therefore while I  
Descend through Darknes, on your road with ease,  
To my associate powers, them to acquaint 395

With these successes, and with them rejoice,  
You two this way, among these numerous orbs  
All yours, right down to Paradise descend;  
There dwell and reign in bliss, thence on the Earth  
Dominion exercise and in the air, 400  
Chiefly on man, sole lord of all declar'd,  
Him first make sure your thrall, and lastly kill.  
My substitutes I send ye, and create  
Plenipotent on Earth, of matchless might  
Issuing from me: on your joint vigor now 405  
My hold of this new kingdom all depends,  
Through sin to death expos'd by my exploit.  
If your joint power prevail, th' affairs of Hell  
No detriment need fear; go and be strong.

So saying he dismiss'd them; they with speed 410  
'Their course through thickest constellations held,  
Spreading their bane; the blasted stars look'd wan,  
And planets, planet-struck, real eclipse  
Then suffer'd. Th' other way Satan went down  
The causeway to Hell gate; on either side 415  
Disparted Chaos over built exclaim'd,  
And with rebounding furge the bars assail'd,  
That scorn'd his indignation: through the gate,  
Wide open and unguarded, Satan pass'd,  
And all about found desolate; for those 420  
Appointed to sit there had left their charge,  
Flown to the upper world; the rest were all  
Far to th' inland retir'd, about the walls

Of Pandemonium, city and proud seat  
Of Lucifer, so by allusion call'd 425  
Of that bright star to Satan paragon'd.  
There kept their watch the legions, while the Grand  
In council sat, solicitous what chance  
Might intercept their emp'ror sent; so he  
Departing gave command, and they observ'd. 430  
As when the Tartar from his Russian foe  
By Astracan over the snowy plains  
Retires, or Bactrian Sophi from the horns  
Of Turkish crescent, leaves all waste beyond  
The realm of Aladule, in his retreat 435  
To Tauris or Casbeen: so these the late  
Heav'n-banish'd host left desert utmost Hell  
Many a dark league, reduc'd in careful watch  
Round their metropolis, and now expecting  
Each hour their great adventurer from the search 440  
Of foreign worlds: he through the midst unmark'd,  
In show plebeian angel militant  
Of lowest order, pass'd; and from the door  
Of that Plutonian hall, invisible  
Ascended his high throne, which under state 445  
Of richest texture spread, at th' upper end  
Was plac'd in regal lustre. Down a while  
He sat, and round about him saw unseen:  
At last as from a cloud his fulgent head  
And shape star-bright appear'd, or brighter, clad 450  
With what permissive glory since his fall



Was left him, or false glitter : all amaz'd  
At that so sudden blaze the Stygian throng  
Bent their aspect, and whom they wish'd beheld,  
Their mighty Chief return'd : loud was the acclame :  
Forth rush'd in haste the great consulting peers, 456  
Rais'd from their dark divan, and with like joy  
Congratulant approach'd him, who with hand  
Silence, and with these words attention won. 459

Thrones, Dominations, Princedoms, Virtues, Pow-  
For in possession such, not only' of right, [ers,  
I call ye and declare ye now, return'd  
Successful beyond hope, to lead ye forth  
Triumphant out of this infernal pit  
Abominable, accurs'd, the house of Woe, 465  
And dungeon of our Tyrant : now possess,  
As lords, a spacious world, to' our native Heav'n  
Little inferior, by my adventure hard  
With peril great achiev'd. Long were to tell  
What I have done, what suffer'd, with what pain 470  
Voyag'd th' unreal, vast, unbounded deep  
Of horrible confusion, over which  
By Sin and Death a broad way now is pav'd  
To expedite your glorious march ; but I  
Toil'd out my uncouth passage, forc'd to ride 475  
Th' untractable abyfs, plung'd in the womb  
Of unorigi'nal Night and Chaos wild,  
That jealous of their secrets fiercely' oppos'd  
My journey strange, with clamorous uproar

Protesting fate supreme; thence how I found 480  
The new-created world, which fame in Heav'n  
Long had foretold, a fabric wonderful  
Of absolute perfection, therein Man  
Plac'd in a paradise, by our exile  
Made happy: him by fraud I have seduc'd 485  
From his Creator, and the more to' increase  
Your wonder, with an apple; he thereat  
Offended, worth your laughter, hath giv'n up  
Both his beloved man and all his world  
To Sin and Death a prey, and so to us, 490  
Without our hazard, labor, or alarm,  
To range in, and to dwell, and over man  
To rule, as over all he should have rul'd.  
True is, me also he hath judg'd, or rather  
Me not, but the brute serpent in whose shape 495  
Man I deceiv'd: that which to me belongs  
Is enmity, which he will put between  
Me and mankind; I am to bruise his heel;  
His Seed, when is not set, shall bruise my head:  
A world who would not purchase with a bruise, 500  
Or much more grievous pain? Ye have th' account  
Of my performance: what remains, ye Gods,  
But up and enter now into full bliss?

So having said, a while he stood, expecting  
Their universal shout and high applause 505  
To fill his ear, when contrary he hears  
On all sides, from innumerable tongues

A dismal universal hiss, the sound  
Of public scorn; he wonder'd, but not long  
Had leisure, wond'ring at himself now more; 510  
His visage drawn he felt to sharp and spare,  
His arms clung to his ribs, his legs intertwining  
Each other, till supplanted down he fell  
A monstrous serpent on his belly prone, *on*  
Reluctant, but in vain, a greater Power 515  
Now rul'd him, punish'd in the shape he sinn'd  
According to his doom: he would have spoke,  
But hiss for hiss return'd with forked tongue  
'To forked tongue, for now were all transform'd  
Alike, to serpents all as accessories 520  
To his bold riot: dreadful was the din  
Of hissing through the hall, thick swarming now  
With complicated monsters head and tail,  
Scorpion, and asp, and amphispæna dire,  
Ceraustes horn'd, hydrus, and elops drear, 525  
And dipsas, (not so thick swarm'd once the soil  
Bedropt with blood of Gorgon, or the ile  
Ophiusa) but still greatest he the midst,  
Now dragon grown, larger than whom the sun  
Ingender'd in the Pythian vale on slime, 530  
Huge Python, and his power no less he seem'd  
Above the rest still to retain; they all  
Him follow'd issuing forth to th' open field,  
Where all yet left of that revolted rout  
Heav'n-fall'n, in station stood or just array, 535

Sublime with expectation when to see  
In triumph issuing forth their glorious Chief;  
They saw, but other sight instead, a croud  
Of ugly serpents; horror on them fell,  
And horrid sympathy; for what they saw, 540  
They felt themselves now changing; down their arms,  
Down fell both spear and shield, down they as fast,  
And the dire hiss renew'd, and the dire form  
Catch'd by contagion, like in punishment,  
As in their crime. Thus was th' applause they meant  
Turn'd to exploding hiss, triumph to shame 546  
Cast on themselves from their own mouths. There stood  
A grove hard by, sprung up with this their change,  
His will who reigns above, to aggravate  
Their penance, laden with fair fruit, like that 550  
Which grew in Paradise, the bait of Eve  
Us'd by the Tempter: on that prospect strange  
Their earnest eyes they fix'd, imagining  
For one forbidden tree a multitude  
Now ris'n, to work them further woe or shame; 555  
Yet parch'd with scalding thirst and hunger fierce,  
Though to delude them sent, could not abstain,  
But on they roll'd in heaps, and up the trees  
Climbing, fat thicker than the snaky locks  
That curl'd Megæra: greedily they pluck'd 560  
The fruitage fair to sight, like that which grew  
Near that bituminous lake where Sodom flam'd;  
This more delusive, not the touch, but taste

Deceiv'd; they fondly thinking to allay  
Their appetite with gust, instead of fruit 565  
Chew'd bitter ashes, which th' offended taste  
With spattering noise rejected: oft they' assay'd,  
Hunger and thirst constraining, drug'd as oft,  
With hatefullest disrelish writh'd their jaws  
With soot and cinders fill'd; so oft they fell 570  
Into the same illusion, not as man  
Whom they triumph'd once laps'd. Thus were they  
And worn with famin, long and ceaselesshifs, [plagu'd  
Till their lost shape, permitted, they resum'd,  
Yearly injoin'd, some say, to undergo 575  
This annual humbling certain number'd days,  
To dash their pride, and joy for man seduc'd.  
However some tradition they dispers'd  
Among the Heathen of their purchase got,  
And fabled how the serpent, whom they call'd 580  
Ophion with Eurynome, the wide  
Encroaching Eve perhaps, had first the rule  
Of high Olympus, thence by Saturn driven  
And Ops, ere yet Diotæan Jove was born.  
Mean while in Paradise the hellish pair 585  
Too soon arriv'd, Sin there in power before,  
Once actual, now in body, and to dwell  
Habitual habitant; behind her Death  
Close following pace for pace, not mounted yet  
On his pale horse: to whom Sin thus began. 590  
Second of Satan sprung, all conqu'ring Death,



What think'st thou of our empire now, though earn'd  
With travel difficult, not better far  
Than still at Hell's dark threshold to' have sat watch,  
Unnam'd, undreaded, and thyself half starv'd? 595

Whom thus the Sin-born monster answer'd soon.  
To me, who with eternal famin pine,  
Alike is Hell, or Paradise, or Heav'n,  
There best, where most with ravin I may meet;  
Which here, though plenteous, all too little seems 600  
To stuff this maw, this vast unhide-bound corps.

To whom th' incestuous mother thus reply'd.  
Thou therefore on these herbs, and fruits, and flowers  
Feed first, on each beast next, and fish, and fowl,  
No homely morsels; and whatever thing 605  
The sith of Time mowes down, devour unspar'd;  
Till I in Man residing through the race,  
His thoughts, his looks, words, actions, all infect,  
And season him thy last and sweetest prey.

This said, they both betook them several ways, 610  
Both to destroy, or unimmortal make  
All kinds, and for destruction to mature  
Sooner or later; which th' Almighty seeing,  
From his transcendent seat the saints among,  
To those bright Orders utter'd thus his voice. 615

See with what heat these dogs of Hell advance  
To waste and havoc yonder world, which I  
So fair and good created, and had still  
Kept in that state, had not the folly' of man

Let in these wasteful furies, who impute 620  
Folly to me, so doth the Prince of Hell  
And his adherents, that with so much ease  
I suffer them to enter and possess  
A place so heav'nly, and conniving seem  
To gratify my scornful enemies, 625  
That laugh, as if transported with some fit  
Of passion, I to them had quitted all,  
At random yielded up to their misrule;  
And know not that I call'd and drew them thither  
My hell-hounds, to lick up the draff and filth 630  
Which man's polluting sin with taint hath shed  
On what was pure, till cramm'd and gorg'd, nigh burst  
With suck'd and glutted offal, at one sling  
Of thy victorious arm, well-pleasing Son,  
Both Sin and Death, and yawning Grave at last 635  
Through Chaos hurl'd, obstruct the mouth of Hell  
For ever, and seal up his ravenous jaws.  
Then Heav'n and Earth renew'd shall be made pure  
To sanctity that shall receive no stain:  
Till then the curse pronounc'd on both precedes. 640

He ended, and the heav'nly audience loud  
Sung halleluiah, as the sound of seas,  
Through multitude that sung: Just are thy ways,  
Righteous are thy decrees on all thy works;  
Who can extenuate thee? Next, to the Son, 645  
Destin'd restorer of mankind, by whom  
New Heav'n and Earth shall to the ages rise,

Or down from Heav'n descend. Such was their song,  
While the Creator calling forth by name  
His mighty angels, gave them several charge 650  
As sort'd best with present things. The sun  
Had first his precept so to move, so shine,  
As might affect the Earth with cold and heat  
Scarce tolerable, and from the North to call  
Decrepit Winter, from the South to bring 655  
Solstitial Summer's heat. To the blanc moon  
Her office they prescrib'd, to th' other five  
Their planetary motions and aspects  
In sextile, square, and trine, and opposit  
Of noxious efficacy', and when to join 660  
In synod unbenign; and taught the fix'd  
Their influence malignant when to shower,  
Which of them rising with the sun, or falling,  
Should prove tempestuous: to the winds they set  
Their corners, when with bluster to confound 665  
Sea, air, and shore, the thunder when to roll  
With terror through the dark aerial hall.  
Some say he bid his angels turn ascant  
The poles of Earth twice ten degrees and more  
From the sun's axle, they with labor push'd 670  
Oblique the centric globe: some say the Sun  
Was bid turn reins from th' equinoctial road  
Like distant breadth to Taurus with the seven  
Atlantic Sisters, and the Spartan Twins  
Up to the tropic Crab; thence down again 675

By Leo and the Virgin and the Scales,  
As deep as Capricorn, to bring in change  
Of seasons to each clime; else had the spring  
Perpetual smil'd on Earth with vernant flowers,  
Equal in days and nights, except to those 680  
Beyond the polar circles; to them day  
Had unbenighted shone, while the low sun  
To recompense his distance, in their sight  
Had rounded still th' horizon, and not known  
Or East or West, which had forbid the snow 685  
From cold Estotiland, and south as far  
Beneath Magellan. At that tasted fruit  
The sun, as from Thyestean banquet turn'd  
His course intended; else how had the world  
Inhabited, though sinless, more than now, 690  
Avoided pinching cold and scorching heat?  
These changes in the Heav'ns, though slow, produc'd  
Like change on sea and land, fideral blast,  
Vapor, and mist, and exhalation hot,  
Corrupt and pestilent: now from the North 695  
Of Norumbega, and the Samoed shore,  
Bursting their brazen dungeon, arm'd with ice  
And snow and hail and stormy gust and flaw,  
Boreas and Cæcias and Argestes loud  
And Thrascias rend the woods and seas upturn; 700  
With adverse blast upturns them from the South  
Notus and Afer black with thundrous clouds  
From Serralliona; thwart of these as fierce

Forth rush the Levant and the Ponent winds  
Eurus and Zephyr with their lateral noise, 705  
Sirocco, and Libecchio. Thus began  
Outrage from lifeless things; but Discord, first  
Daughter of Sin, among th' irrational,  
Death introduc'd through fierce antipathy: 709  
Beast now with beast 'gan war, and fowl with fowl,  
And fish with fish; to graze the herb all leaving,  
Devour'd each other; nor stood much in awe  
Of man, but fled him, or with count'nance grim  
Glar'd on him passing. These were from without  
The growing miseries which Adam saw 715  
Already' in part, though hid in gloomiest shade,  
To sorrow' abandon'd, but worse felt within,  
And in a troubled sea of passion tost,  
Thus to disburden fought with sad complaint.

O miserable of happy! is this the end 720  
Of this new glorious world, and me so late  
The glory of that glory', who now become  
Accurs'd of blessed, hide me from the face  
Of God, whom to behold was then my highth  
Of happiness! yet well, if here would end 725  
The misery; I deserv'd it, and would bear  
My own deservings; but this will not serve;  
All that I eat or drink, or shall beget,  
Is propagated curse. O voice once heard  
Delightfully, *Increase and multiply*, 730  
Now death to hear! for what can I increase



Or multiply, but curses on my head?  
Who of all ages to succeed, but feeling  
The evil on him brought by me, will curse  
My head? Ill fare our ancestor impure, 735  
For this we may thank Adam; but his thanks  
Shall be the execration; so besides  
Mine own that bide upon me, all from me  
Shall with a fierce reflux on me redound,  
On me as on their natural center light 740  
Heavy, though in their place. O fleeting joys  
Of Paradise, dear bought with lasting woes!  
Did I request thee, Maker, from my clay  
To mold me man, did I solicit thee  
From darkness to promote me, or here place 745  
In this delicious garden? As my will  
Concurr'd not to my be'ing, it were but right  
And equal to reduce me to my dust,  
Desirous to resign and render back  
All I receiv'd, unable to perform 750  
Thy terms too hard, by which I was to hold  
The good I fought not. To the loss of that,  
Sufficient penalty, why hast thou added  
The sense of endless woes? inexplicable  
Thy justice seems; yet to say truth, too late 755  
I thus contest; then should have been refus'd  
Those terms whatever, when they were propos'd:  
Thou didst accept them: wilt thou' enjoy the good,  
Then cavil the conditions? and though God

Made thee without thy leave, what if thy son 760  
Prove disobedient, and reprov'd, retort,  
Wherefore didst thou beget me? I sought it not:  
Wouldst thou admit for his contempt of thee  
That proud excuse? yet him not thy election,  
But natural necessity begot. 765  
'God made thee' of choice his own, and of his own  
To serve him; thy reward was of his grace,  
Thy punishment then justly' is at his will.  
Be' it so, for I submit; his doom is fair,  
That dust I am, and shall to dust return: 770  
O welcome hour whenever! why delays  
His hand to execute what his decree  
Fix'd on this day? why do I overlive,  
Why am I mock'd with death, and lengthen'd out  
To deathless pain? how gladly would I meet 775  
Mortality my sentence, and be earth  
Insensible, how glad would lay me down  
As in my mother's lap? there I should rest  
And sleep secure; his dreadful voice no more  
Would thunder in my ears, no fear of worse 780  
To me and to my offspring would torment me  
With cruel expectation. Yet one doubt  
Pursues me still, lest all I cannot die,  
Lest that pure breath of life, the spi'rit of man  
Which God inspir'd, cannot together perish 785  
With this corporeal clod; then in the grave,  
Or in some other dismal place, who knows

But I shall die a living death? O thought  
Horrid, if true! yet why? it was but breath  
Of life that sinn'd; what dies but what had life 790  
And sin? the body properly hath neither.  
All of me then shall die: let this appease  
The doubt, since human reach no further knows.  
For though the Lord of all be infinite,  
Is his wrath also? be it, man is not so, 795  
But mortal doom'd. How can he exercise  
Wrath without end on man whom death must end?  
Can he make deathless death? that were to make  
Strange contradiction, which to God himself  
Impossible is held, as argument 800  
Of weakness, not of power. Will he draw out,  
For anger's sake, finite to infinite  
In punish'd man, to satisfy his rigor  
Satisfy'd never? that were to extend  
His sentence beyond dust and Nature's law, 805  
By which all causes else according still  
To the reception of their matter act,  
Not to th' extent of their own sphere. But say  
That death be not one stroke, as I suppos'd  
Bereaving sense, but endless misery 810  
From this day onward, which I feel begun  
Both in me, and without me, and so last  
To perpetuity; Ay me, that fear  
Comes thund'ring back with dreadful revolution  
On my defenseless head; both death and I 815

Am found eternal, and incorporate both,  
Nor I in my part single, in me all  
Posterity stands curs'd: fair patrimony  
That I must leave ye, Sons; O were I able  
To waste it all myself, and leave ye none! 820  
So disinherited how would you bless  
Me now your curse! Ah, why should all mankind  
For one man's fault thus guiltless be condemn'd,  
If guiltless? but from me what can proceed,  
But all corrupt, both mind and will deprav'd 825  
Not to do only, but to will the same  
With me? how can they then acquitted stand  
In sight of God? him after all disputes  
Forc'd I absolve: all my evasions vain,  
And reasonings, though through mazes, lead me still  
But to my own conviction: first and last 831  
On me, me only, as the source and spring  
Of all corruption, all the blame lights due;  
So might the wrath! Fond wish; couldst thou support  
That burden heavier than the Earth to bear, 835  
Than all the world much heavier, though divided  
With that bad Woman? thus what thou desir'st  
And what thou fear'st, alike destroys all hope  
Of refuge, and concludes thee miserable  
Beyond all past example and future, 840  
To Satan only like both crime and doom.  
O Conscience, into what abyss of fears  
And horrors hast thou driven me; out of which

I find no way, from deep to deeper plung'd!

Thus Adam to himself lamented loud 845

Through the still night, not now, as ere man fell  
Wholesome and cool, and mild, but with black air  
Accompanied, with damps and dreadful gloom,  
Which to his evil conscience represented

All things with double terror: on the ground 850

Out stretch'd he lay, on the cold ground, and oft  
Curs'd his creation, Death as oft accus'd

Of tardy execution, since denounc'd

The day of his offense. Why comes not Death,  
Said he, with one thrice acceptable stroke 855

To end me? shall Truth fail to keep her word,  
Justice divine not hasten to be just?

But Death comes not at call, Justice divine  
Mends not her slowest pace for pray'rs or cries.

O Woods, O Fountains, Hillocks, Dales, and Bowers,  
With other echo late I taught your shades 861

To answer, and resound far other song.

Whom thus afflicted when sad Eve beheld,  
Desolate where she sat, approaching nigh,  
Soft words to his fierce passion she assay'd: 865

But her with stern regard he thus repell'd.

Out of my sight, thou Serpent; that name best  
Befits thee with him leagu'd, thyself as false  
And hateful; nothing wants, but that thy shape,  
Like his, and color serpentine may show 870  
Thy inward fraud, to warn all creatures from thee



Henceforth; lest that too heav'nly form, pretended  
To hellish falsehood, snare them. But for thee  
I had persisted happy', had not thy pride  
And wand'ring vanity, when least was safe, 875  
Rejected my forewarning, and disdain'd  
Not to be trusted, longing to be seen  
Though by the Dev'il himself, him overweening  
To over-reach, but with the serpent meeting  
Fool'd and beguil'd, by him thou, I by thee, 880  
To trust thee from my side, imagin'd wife,  
Constant, mature, proof against all assaults,  
And understood not all was but a show  
Rather than solid virtue', all but a rib  
Crooked by Nature, bent, as now appears, 885  
More to the part sinister, from me drawn,  
Well if thrown out, as supernumerary  
To my just number found. O why did God,  
Creator wise, that peopled highest Heav'n  
With spirits masculine, create at last 890  
This novelty on Earth, this fair defect  
Of Nature, and not fill the world at once  
With men as angels without feminine,  
Or find some other way to generate  
Mankind? this mischief had not then befall'n, 895  
And more that shall befall, innumerable  
Disturbances on Earth through female snares,  
And strait conjunction with this sex: for either  
He never shall find out fit mate, but such

As some misfortune brings him, or mistake; 900  
Or whom he wishes most shall seldom gain  
Through her perverseness, but shall see her gain'd  
By a far worse; or if she love, withheld  
By parents; or his happiest choice too late  
Shall meet, already link'd and wedlock-bound 905  
To a fell adversary, his hate or shame:  
Which infinite calamity shall cause  
To human life, and household peace confound.

He added not, and from her turn'd; but Eve  
Not so repuls'd, with tears that ceas'd not flowing,  
And tresses all disorder'd, at his feet 911  
Fell humble, and embracing them, besought  
His peace, and thus proceeded in her plaint.

For sake me not thus, Adam; witness Heav'n  
What love sincere, and reverence in my heart 915  
I bear thee, and unweeting have offended,  
Unhappily deceiv'd; thy suppliant  
I beg, and clasp thy knees; bereave me not,  
Whereon I live, thy gentle looks, thy aid,  
Thy counsel in this uttermost distress, 920  
My only strength and stay: forlorn of thee,  
Whither shall I betake me, where subsist?  
While yet we live, scarce one short hour perhaps,  
Between us two let there be peace, both joining,  
As join'd in injuries, one enmity 925  
Against a foe by doom express assign'd us,  
That cruel serpent: on me exercise not

Thy hatred for this misery befall'n,  
On me already lost, me than thyself  
More miserable; both have sinn'd, but thou 930  
Against God only', I against God and thee,  
And to the place of judgment will return,  
There with my cries importune Heav'n, that all  
The sentence from thy head remov'd may light  
On me, sole cause to thee of all this woe, 935  
Me, me only, just object of his ire.

She ended weeping, and her lowly plight,  
Immoveable till peace obtain'd from fault  
Acknowledg'd and deplor'd, in Adam wrought  
Commiseration; soon his heart relented 940  
Tow'ards her, his life so late and sole delight,  
Now at his feet submissive in distress,  
Creature so fair his reconciliation seeking,  
His counsel, whom she had displeas'd, his aid;  
As one disarm'd, his anger all he lost, 945  
And thus with peaceful words uprais'd her soon.

Unwary, and too desirous, as before,  
So now of what thou know'st not, who desir'st  
The punishment all on thyself; alas,  
Bear thine own first, ill able to sustain 950  
His full wrath, whose thou feel'st as yet least part,  
And my displeasure bear'st so ill. If prayers  
Could alter high decrees, I to that place  
Would speed before thee, and be louder heard,  
That on my head all might be visited, 955

Thy frailty and infirmer sex forgiven,  
To me committed and by me expos'd.  
But rise, let us no more contend, nor blame  
Each other, blam'd enough elsewhere, but strive  
In offices of love, how we may lighten 960  
Each other's burden in our share of woe;  
Since this day's death denounc'd, if ought I see,  
Will prove no sudden, but a slow-pac'd evil,  
A long-day's dying to augment our pain,  
And to our seed (O hapless seed!) deriv'd. 965

To whom thus Eve, recovering heart, reply'd.  
Adam, by sad experiment I know  
How little weight my words with thee can find,  
Found so erroneous, thence by just event  
Found so unfortunate; nevertheless, 970  
Restor'd by thee, vile as I am, to place  
Of new acceptance, hopeful to regain  
Thy love, the sole contentment of my heart  
Living or dying, from thee I will not hide  
What thoughts in my unquiet breast are risen, 975  
Tending to some relief of our extremes,  
Or end, though sharp and sad, yet tolerable,  
As in our evils, and of easier choice.  
If care of our descent perplex us most,  
Which must be born to certain woe, devour'd 980  
By Death at last; and miserable it is  
To be to others cause of misery,  
Our own begotten, and of our loins to bring

Into this cursed world a woeful race,  
That after wretched life must be at last 985  
Food for so foul a monster; in thy power  
It lies, yet ere conception to prevent  
The race unblest, to be'ing yet unbegot.  
Childless thou art, childless remain: so Death  
Shall be deceiv'd his glut, and with us two 990  
Be forc'd to satisfy his ravenous maw.  
But if thou judge it hard and difficult,  
Conversing, looking, loving, to abstain  
From Love's due rites, nuptial embraces sweet,  
And with desire to languish without hope, 995  
Before the present object languishing  
With like desire, which would be misery  
And torment less than none of what we dread;  
Then both ourselves and seed at once to free  
From what we fear for both, let us make short, 1000  
Let us seek Death, or he not found, supply  
With our own hands his office on ourselves:  
Why stand we longer shivering under fears,  
That show no end but death, and have the power,  
Of many ways to die the shortest chusing, 1005  
Destruction with destruction to destroy?  
She ended here, or vehement despair  
Broke off the rest; so much of death her thoughts  
Had entertain'd, as dy'd her cheeks with pale.  
But Adam with such counsel nothing sway'd, 1010  
So better hopes his more attentive mind



Lab'ring had rais'd, and thus to Eve reply'd.

Eve, thy contempt of life and pleasure seems  
To argue in thee something more sublime  
And excellent than what thy mind contemns; 1015  
But self-destruction therefore sought, refutes  
That excellence thought in thee, and implies,  
Not thy contempt, but anguish and regret  
For loss of life and pleasure overlov'd.

Or if thou covet death, as utmost end 1020  
Of misery, so thinking to evade

The penalty pronounc'd, doubt not but God  
Hath wiselier arm'd his vengeful ire than so  
To be forestall'd; much more I fear lest death  
So snatch'd will not exempt us from the pain 1025

We are by doom to pay; rather such acts  
Of contumacy will provoke the Highest  
To make death in us live: then let us seek  
Some safer resolution, which methinks  
I have in view, calling to mind with heed 1030

Part of our sentence, that thy Seed shall bruise  
The serpent's head; piteous amends, unless  
Be meant, whom I conjecture, our grand foe  
Satan, who in the serpent hath contriv'd  
Against us this deceit: to crush his head 1035

Would be revenge indeed; which will be lost  
By death brought on ourselves, or childless days  
Resolv'd as thou proposest; so our foe  
Shall scape his punishment ordain'd, and we

Instead shall double ours upon our heads. 1040  
No more be mention'd then of violence  
Against ourselves, and wilful barrenness,  
That cuts us off from hope, and favors only  
Rancor and pride, impatience and despite,  
Reluctance against God and his just yoke 1045  
Laid on our necks. Remember with what mild  
And gracious temper he both heard and judg'd  
Without wrath or reviling; we expected  
Immediate dissolution, which we thought  
Was meant by death that day, when lo, to thee 1050  
Pains only in child-bearing were foretold,  
And bringing forth, soon recompens'd with joy,  
Fruit of thy womb: on me the curse aslope  
Glanc'd on the ground; with labor I must earn  
My bread; what harm? Idleness had been worse;  
My labor will sustain me; and lest cold 1056  
Or heat should injure us, his timely care  
Hath unbefought provided, and his hands  
Cloth'd us unworthy, pitying while he judg'd;  
How much more, if we pray him, will his ear 1060  
Be open, and his heart to pity' incline,  
And teach us further by what means to shun  
Th' inclement seasons, rain, ice, hail, and snow?  
Which now the sky with various face begins  
To show us in this mountain, while the winds 1065  
Blow moist and keen, shattering the graceful locks  
Of these fair spreading trees; which bids us seek

Some better shroud, some better warmth to cherish  
Our lips benum'd, ere this diurnal star  
Leave cold the night, how we his gather'd beams 1070  
Reflected, may with matter fere foment  
Or by collision of two bodies grind  
The air attrite to fire, as late the clouds  
Jostling or push'd with winds rude in their shock 1074  
Tine the flant lightning, whose thwart flame driv'n  
Kindles the gummy bark of fir or pine, [down  
And sends a comfortable heat from far,  
Which might supply the sun : such fire to use,  
And what may else be remedy or cure  
To evils which our own misdeeds have wrought, 1080  
He will instruct us praying, and of grace  
Beseeching him, so as we need not fear  
'To pass commodiously this life, sustain'd  
By him with many comforts, till we end  
In dust, our final rest and native home. 1085  
What better can we do, than to the place  
Repairing where he judg'd us, prostrate fall  
Before him reverent, and there confess  
Humbly our faults, and pardon beg, with tears  
Watering the ground, and with our sighs the air 1090  
Frequenting, sent from hearts contrite, in sign  
Of sorrow' unfeign'd, and humiliation meek ?  
Undoubtedly he will relent and turn  
From his displeasure ; in whose look serene,  
When angry most he seem'd and most severe, 1095

What else but favor, grace, and mercy Ihone?

So spake our Father penitent, nor Eve  
Felt less remorse: they forthwith to the place  
Repairing where he judg'd them, prostrate fell  
Before him reverent, and both confess'd 1100  
Humbly their faults, and pardon begg'd, with tears  
Watering the ground, and with their sighs the air  
Frequenting, sent from hearts contrite, in sign  
Of sorrow' unfeign'd, and humiliation meek. 1104

*The End of the Tenth Book.*

# PARADISE LOST.

## BOOK XI.

### The Argument.

The Son of God presents to his Father the prayers of our First Parents now repenting, and intercedes for them: God accepts them, but declares that they must no longer abide in Paradise; sends Michael with a band of cherubim to dispossess them; but first to reveal to Adam future things: Michael's coming down. Adam shows to Eve certain ominous signs; he discerns Michael's approach, goes out to meet him; the angel denounces their departure. Eve's lamentation. Adam pleads, but submits: the angel leads him up to a high hill, sets before him in vision what shall happen till the flood.

Thus they in lowliest plight repentant stood  
Praying, for from the mercy-seat above  
Prevenient grace descending had remov'd  
The stony from their hearts, and made new flesh  
Regenerate grow instead, that sighs now breath'd 3  
Unutterable, which the Spi'rit of prayer  
Inspir'd, and wing'd for Heav'n with speedier flight  
Than loudest oratory: yet their port  
Not of mean suiters, nor important less  
Seem'd their petition, than when th' ancient pair 10  
In fables old, less ancient yet than these,  
Deucalion and chaste Pyrrha, to restore  
The race of mankind drown'd, before the shrine  
Of Themis stood devout. To Heav'n their prayers  
Flew up, nor miss'd the way, by envious winds 13  
Blown vagabond, or frustrate: in they pass'd



Dimensionless through heav'nly doors; then clad  
With incense, where the golden altar fum'd,  
By their great Intercessor, came in sight  
Before the Father's throne: them the glad Son 20  
Presenting, thus to intercede began.

See, Father, what first fruits on Earth are sprung  
From thy implanted grace in man, these sighs  
And pray'rs, which in this golden censer, mix'd  
With incense, I thy priest before thee bring, 25  
Fruits of more pleasing favor from thy seed  
Sown with contrition in his heart, than those  
Which his own hand manuring all the trees  
Of Paradise could have produc'd, ere fall'n  
From innocence. Now therefore bend thine ear 30  
To supplication, hear his sighs though mute;  
Unskilful with what words to pray, let me  
Interpret for him, me his Advocate  
And Propitiation; all his works on me  
Good or not good ingraft, my merit those 35  
Shall perfect, and for these my death shall pay.  
Accept me, and in me from these receive  
The smell of peace tow'ard mankind; let him live  
Before thee reconcil'd, at least his days  
Number'd, though sad, till death, his doom, (which I  
To mitigate thus plead, not to reverse) 41  
To better life shall yield him, where with me  
All my redeem'd may dwell in joy and bliss,  
Made one with me as I with thee am one.

To whom the Father, without cloud, serene. 43  
All thy request for man, accepted Son,  
Obtain; all thy request was my decree:  
But longer in that Paradise to dwell,  
The law I gave to Nature him forbids:  
Those pure immortal elements that know 50  
No gross, no unharmonious mixture foul, 60  
Eject him tainted now, and purge him off  
As a distemper, gross to air as gross,  
And mortal food, as may dispose him best  
For dissolution wrought by sin, that first 55  
Distemper'd all things, and of incorrupt  
Corrupted. I at first with two fair gifts  
Created him endow'd, with happiness  
And immortality: that fondly lost,  
This other serv'd but to eternize woe, 60  
Till I provided death; so death becomes  
His final remedy, and after life  
Try'd in sharp tribulation, and refin'd  
By faith and faithful works, to second life,  
Wak'd in the renovation of the just, 65  
Reigns him up with Heav'n and Earth renew'd.  
But let us call to synod all the blest  
Thro' Heav'n's wide bounds; from them I will not  
My judgments, how with mankind I proceed, [hide  
As how with peccant angels late they saw, 70  
And in their state, though firm, stood more confirm'd.  
He ended, and the Son gave signal high

To the bright minister that watch'd; he blew  
His trumpet, heard in Orb since perhaps  
When God descended, and perhaps once more 75  
To sound at general doom. Th' angelic blast  
Fill'd all the regions: from their blissful bowers  
Of amarantin shade, fountain or spring,  
By the waters of life, where'er they sat  
In fellowships of joy, the sons of Light 80  
Hasted, resorting to the summons high,  
And took their seats; till from his throne supreme  
Th' Almighty thus pronounc'd his sovran will.

O Sons, like one of us man is become  
To know both good and evil, since his taste 85  
Of that defended fruit; but let him boast  
His knowledge of good lost, and evil got;  
Happier, had it suffic'd him to have known  
Good by itself, and evil not at all.

He sorrows now, repents, and prays contrite, 90  
My motions in him; longer than they move,  
His heart I know, how variable and vain  
Self-left. Lest therefore his now bolder hand  
Reach also of the tree of Life, and eat,  
And live for ever, dream at least to live 95  
For ever, to remove him I decree,  
And send him from the garden forth to till  
The ground whence he was taken, fitter soil.

Michael, this my behest have thou in charge,  
Take to thee from among the cherubim 100

Thy choice of flaming warriors, lest the Fiend,  
 Or in behalf of man, or to invade  
 Vacant possession, some new trouble raise :  
 Hasten thee, and from the Paradise of God  
 Without remorse drive out the sinful pair, 105  
 From hallow'd ground th' unholy, and denounce  
 To them and to their progeny from thence  
 Perpetual banishment. Yet lest they faint  
 At the sad sentence rigorously urg'd,  
 For I behold them soften'd and with tears 110  
 Bewailing their excess, all terror hide.  
 If patiently thy bidding they obey,  
 Dismiss them not disconsolate; reveal  
 To Adam what shall come in future days,  
 As I shall thee enlighten; intermix 115  
 My covenant in the Woman's Seed renew'd;  
 So send them forth, though sorrowing, yet in peace:  
 And on the east side of the garden place,  
 Where entrance up from Eden easiest climbs,  
 Cherubic watch, and of a sword the flame 120  
 Wide-waving, all approach far off to fright,  
 And guard all passage to the tree of Life;  
 Lest Paradise a receptacle prove  
 To spirits foul, and all my trees their prey,  
 With whose stol'n fruit man once more to delude. 125  
 He ceas'd; and th' arch-angelic Pow'r prepar'd  
 For swift descent, with him the cohort bright  
 Of watchful cherubim; four faces each

Had, like a double Janus, all their shape  
Spangled with eyes, more numerous than those 130  
Of Argus, and more wakeful than to drowse,  
Charm'd with Arcadian pipe, the past'ral reed  
Of Hermes, or his opiate rod. Mean while  
To resalute the world with sacred light  
Leucothea wak'd, and with fresh dews imbalm'd 135  
The Earth, when Adam and first matron Eve  
Had ended now their orisons, and found  
Strength added from above, new hope to spring  
Out of despair, joy, but with fear yet link'd;  
Which thus to Eve his welcome words renew'd. 140

Eve, easily may faith admit, that all  
The good which we enjoy from Heav'n descends;  
But that from us ought should ascend to Heav'n  
So prevalent as to concern the mind  
Of God high-blest, or to incline his will, 145  
Hard to belief may seem; yet this will pray'r  
Or one short sigh of human breath, upborne  
Ev'n to the seat of God. For since I fought  
By pray'r th' offended Deity to' appease,  
Kneel'd and before him humbled all my heart, 150  
Methought I saw him placable and mild,  
Bending his ear; persuasion in me grew  
That I was heard with favor; peace return'd  
Home to my breast, and to my memory  
His promise, that thy Seed shall bruise our foe; 155  
Which then not minded in dismay, yet now



Affures me that the bitterness of death  
Is past, and we shall live. Whence hail to thee,  
Eve rightly call'd, Mother of all Mankind,  
Mother of all things living, since by thee 160  
Man is to live, and all things live for man.

To whom thus Eve with sad demeanour meek.  
Ill worthy I such title should belong  
To me transgressor, who for thee ordain'd  
A help, became thy snare; to me reproach 165  
Rather belongs, distrust and all dispraise:  
But infinite in pardon was my Judge,  
That I who first brought death on all, am grac'd  
The source of life; next favourable thou,  
Who highly thus to' intitle me vouchsaf'st, 170  
Far other name deserving. But the field  
To labor calls us now with sweat impos'd,  
Though after sleepless night; for see the Morn,  
All unconcern'd with our unrest, begins  
Her rosy progress smiling; let us forth, 175  
I never from thy side henceforth to stray,  
Where'er our day's work lies, though now injoin'd  
Laborious, till day droop; while here we dwell,  
What can be foilsome in these pleasant walks?  
Here let us live, though in fall'n state, content. 180  
So spake, so wish'd much-humbled Eve, but Fate  
Subscrib'd not; Nature first gave signs, impress'd  
On bird, beast, air, air suddenly eclips'd  
After short blush of Morn; nigh in her sight

The bird of Jove, sloop'd from his aery tour, 185  
Two birds of gayest plume before him drove;  
Down from a hill the beast that reigns in woods,  
First hunter then, pursu'd a gentle brace,  
Goodliest of all the forest, hart and hind;  
Direct to th' Eastern gate was bent their flight. 190  
Adam observ'd, and with his eye the chase  
Pursuing, not unmov'd to Eve thus spake.

O Eve, some further change awaits us nigh,  
Which Heav'n by these mute signs in Nature shows,  
Forerunners of his purpose, or to warn 195  
Us haply too secure of our discharge  
From penalty, because from death releas'd  
Some days; how long, and what till then our life,  
Who knows, or more than this, that we are dust,  
And thither must return and be no more? 200  
Why else this double object in our sight  
Of flight pursu'd in th' air, and o'er the ground,  
One way the self-same hour? why in the East  
Darkness e'er day's mid-course, and morning light  
More orient in yon western cloud, that draws 205  
O'er the blue firmament a radiant white,  
And slow descends, with something heav'nly fraught?

He err'd not, for by this the heav'nly bands  
Down from a sky of jasper lighted now  
In Paradise, and on a hill made halt, 210  
A glorious apparition, had not doubt  
And carnal fear that day dimm'd Adam's eye.

Not that more glorious, when the angels met  
Jacob in Mahanaim, where he saw  
The field pavilion'd with his guardians bright; 215  
Nor that which on the flaming mount appear'd  
In Dothan, cover'd with a camp of fire,  
Against the Syrian king, who to surprize  
One man, assassin like, had levied war,  
War unproclam'd. The princely hierarch 220  
In their bright stand there left his pow'rs to seize  
Possession of the garden; he alone,  
To find where Adam shelter'd, took his way,  
Not unperceiv'd of Adam, who to Eve,  
While the great Visitant approach'd, thus spake. 225

Eve, now expect great tidings, which perhaps  
Of us will soon determin, or impose  
New laws to be observ'd; for I descry  
From yonder blazing cloud that veils the hill  
One of the heav'nly host, and by his gate 230  
None of the meanest, some great potentate  
Or of the thrones above, such majesty  
Invests him coming; yet not terrible,  
That I should fear, nor sociably mild,  
As Raphael, that I should much confide, 235  
But solemn and sublime, whom not to offend,  
With reverence I must meet, and thou retire.

He ended; and th' arch-angel soon drew nigh,  
Not in his shape celestial, but as man  
Clad to meet man; over his lucid arms 240

A military vest of purple flow'd,  
Livelier than Melibœan, or the grain  
Of Sarra, worn by kings and heroes old  
In time of truce; Iris had dipt the woof;  
His starry helm unbuckled shew'd him prime 245  
In manhood where youth ended; by his side  
As in a glist'ring zodiac hung the sword,  
Satan's dire dread, and in his hand the spear.  
Adam bow'd low; he kingly from his state  
Inclin'd not, but his coming thus declar'd. 250

Adam, Heav'n's high behest no preface needs:  
Sufficient that thy pray'rs are heard, and Death,  
Then due by sentence when thou didst transgress,  
Defeated of his seizure many days  
Giv'n thee of grace, wherein thou may'st repent, 255  
And one bad act with many deeds well done  
May'st cover: well may then thy Lord appear'd  
Redeem thee quite from Death's rapacious clame;  
But longer in this Paradise to dwell  
Permits not; to remove thee I am come, 260  
And send thee from the garden forth to till  
The ground whence thou wast taken, fitter soil.

He added not, for Adam at the news  
Heart-struck with chilling gripe of sorrow stood,  
That all his senses bound; Eve, who unseen 265  
Yet all had heard, with audible lament  
Discover'd soon the place of her retire.

O unexpected stroke, worse than of death!

Must I thus leave thee, Paradise? thus leave  
Thee, native soil, these happy walks and shades, 270  
Fit haunt of gods? where I had hope to spend,  
Quiet though sad, the respite of that day  
That must be mortal to us both. O Flowers,  
That never will in other climate grow,  
My early visitation, and my last 275  
At even, which I bred up with tender hand  
From the first opening bud, and gave ye names,  
Who now shall rear ye to the sun, or rank  
Your tribes, and water from th' ambrosial fount?  
Thee lastly, nuptial Bow'r, by me adorn'd 280  
With what to sight or smell was sweet, from thee  
How shall I part, and whither wander down  
Into a lower world, to this obscure  
And wild? how shall we breathe in other air  
Less pure, accusom'd to immortal fruits? 285

Whom thus the angel interrupted mild.  
Lament not, Eve, but patiently resign  
What justly thou hast lost; nor set thy heart,  
Thus over-fond, on that which is not thine;  
Thy going is not lonely; with thee goes 290  
Thy husband; him to follow thou art bound;  
Where he abides, think there thy native soil.

Adam by this from the cold sudden damp  
Recovering, and his scatter'd spi'rits return'd,  
To Michael thus his humble words address'd. 295  
Celestial, whether among the thrones, or nam'd



Of them the high'est, for such of shape may seem  
Prince above princes, gently hast thou told  
Thy message, which might else in telling wound,  
And in performing end us; what besides 300  
Of sorrow and dejection and despair  
Our frailty can sustain, thy tidings bring,  
Departure from this happy place, our sweet  
Recess, and only consolation left  
Familiar to our eyes, all places else 305  
Inhospitable appear and desolate,  
Nor knowing us nor known: and if by pray'r  
Incessant I could hope to change the will  
Of him who all things can, I would not cease  
To weary him with my assiduous cries: 310  
But pray'r against his absolute decree  
No more avails than breath against the wind,  
Blown stifling back on him that breathes it forth:  
Therefore to his great bidding I submit.  
This most afflicts me, that departing hence, 315  
As from his face I shall be hid, depriv'd  
His blessed count'nance; here I could frequent  
With worship place by place where he vouchsaf'd  
Presence divine, and to my sons relate,  
On this mount he appear'd, under this tree 320  
Stood visible, among these pines his voice  
I heard, here with him at this fountain talk'd:  
So many grateful altars I would rear  
Of grassy turf, and pile up every stone

Of lustre from the brook, in memory, 325  
Or monument to ages, and thereon  
Offer sweet-smelling gums and fruits and flowers:  
In yonder nether world where shall I seek  
His bright appearances, or footstep trace?  
For though I fled him angry, yet recall'd 330  
To life prolong'd and promis'd race, I now  
Gladly behold though but his utmost skirts  
Of glory, and far off his steps adore.

To whom thus Michael with regard benign.  
Adam, thou know'st Heav'n his, and all the Earth,  
Not this rock only; his omnipresence fills 336  
Land, sea, and air, and every kind that lives,  
Fomented by his virtual Pow'r and warm'd:  
All th' Earth he gave thee to possess and rule,  
No despicable gift; surmise not then 340  
His presence to these narrow bounds confin'd  
Of Paradise or Eden: this had been  
Perhaps thy capital seat, from whence had spread  
All generations, and had hither come  
From all the ends of th' Earth, to celebrate 345  
And reverence thee their great Progenitor.  
But this præminence thou' hast lost, brought down  
To dwell on even ground now with thy sons:  
Yet doubt not but in valley and in plain  
God is as here, and will be found alike 350  
Present, and of his presence many a sign  
Still following thee, still compassing thee round

With goodness and paternal love, his face  
Express, and of his steps the track divine.  
Which that thou may'st believe, and he confirm'd  
Ere thou from hence depart, know I am sent 356  
To show thee what shall come in future days  
To thee and to thy offspring; good with bad  
Expect to hear, supernal Grace contending  
With sinfulness of men; thereby to learn 360  
True patience, and to temper joy with fear  
And pious sorrow, equally inur'd  
By moderation either state to bear,  
Prosperous or adverse: so shalt thou lead  
Safest thy life, and best prepar'd endure 365  
Thy mortal passage when it comes. Ascend  
This hill; let Eve (for I have drench'd her eyes)  
Here sleep below, while thou to foresight wak'st;  
As once thou sleptst, while she to life was form'd.  
To whom thus Adam gratefully reply'd. 370  
Ascend, I follow thee, safe Guide, the path  
Thou lead'st me', and to the hand of Heav'n submit,  
However chaf'ning, to the evil turn  
My obvious breast, arming to overcome  
By suffering, and earn rest from labor won, 375  
If so I may attain. So both ascend  
In the visions of God: It was a hill  
Of Paradise the highest, from whose top  
The hemisphere of Earth in clearest ken  
Stretch'd out to th' amplest reach of prospect lay. 380

Not high'er that hill nor wider looking round,  
Whereon for different cause the Tempter set  
Our second Adam in the wilderness,  
To shew him all Earth's kingdoms and their glory.  
His eye might there command wherever stood 385  
City of old or modern fame, the seat  
Of mightiest empire, from the destin'd walls<sup>o</sup>  
Of Cambalu, seat of Cathaian Can,  
And Samarchand by Oxus, Temir's throne,  
To Paquin of Sinæan kings, and thence 390  
To Agra and Lahor of great Mogul  
Down to the golden Chersonese, or where  
The Persian in Ecbatan sat, or since  
In Hispahan, or where the Russian Ksar  
In Mosco, or the Sultan in Bizance, 395  
Turchestan-born; nor could his eye not ken  
Th' empire of Negus to his utmost port  
Ercoco, and the less maritim kings  
Mombaza, and Quiloa, and Melind,  
And Sofala thought Ophir, to the realm 400  
Of Congo, and Angola farthest south;  
Or thence from Niger flood to Atlas mount  
The kingdoms of Almanfor, Fez and Sus,  
Marocco and Algiers, and Tremisen;  
On Europe thence, and where Rome was to sway 405  
The world: in spi'rit perhaps he also saw  
Rich Mexico the seat of Montezume,  
And Cusco in Peru, the richer seat

Of Atabalipa, and yet unspoil'd  
Guiana, whose great city Geryon' sons 410  
Call El Dorado: but to nobler fights  
Michael from Adam's eyes the film remov'd,  
Which that false Fruit that promis'd clearer sight  
Had bred; then purg'd with euphrasy and rue  
The visual nerve, for he had much to see; 415  
And from the well of Life three drops instill'd.  
So deep the power of these ingredients pierc'd,  
E'en to the inmost seat of mental sight,  
That Adam now enforc'd to close his eyes,  
Sunk down, and all his spirits become intranc'd;  
But him the gentle angel by the hand 421  
Soon rais'd, and his attention thus recall'd.

Adam, now ope thine eyes, and first behold  
Th' effects which thy originall crime hath wrought  
In some to spring from thee, who never touch'd 425  
Th' excepted tree, nor with the snake conspir'd,  
Nor sinn'd thy sin, yet from that sin derive  
Corruption to bring forth more violent deeds.

His eyes he open'd, and beheld a field,  
Part arable and tilth, whereon were sheaves 430  
New reap'd, the other part sheep-walks and folds;  
I' th' midst an altar as the land-mark stood,  
Rustic, of grassy ford; thither anon  
A sweaty reaper from his tillage brought  
First fruits, the green ear, and the yellow sheaf, 435  
Uncull'd, as came to hand; a shepherd next



More meek came with the firstlings of his flock  
Choicest and best; then sacrificing, laid  
The inwards and their fat, with incense strow'd,  
On the cleft wood, and all due rites perform'd. 440  
His offering soon propitious fire from Heav'n  
Consum'd with nimble glance, and grateful steam;  
The other's not, for his was not sincere;  
Whereat he inly rag'd, and as they talk'd,  
Smote him into the midriff with a stone 445  
That beat out life; he fell, and deadly pale  
Groan'd out his soul with gushing blood effus'd.  
Much at that sight was Adam in his heart  
Dismay'd, and thus in haste to th' angel cry'd.

O Teacher, some great mischief hath befall'n 450  
To that meek man, who well had sacrific'd;  
Is piety thus and pure devotion paid?

T' whom Michael thus, he also mov'd, reply'd.  
These two are brethren, Adam, and to come  
Out of thy loins; th' unjust the just hath slain, 455  
For envy that his brother's offering found  
From Heav'n acceptance; but the bloody fact  
Will be aveng'd, and th' other's faith approv'd  
Lose no reward, though here thou see him die,  
Rolling in dust and gore. To which our Sire. 460

Alas, both for the deed and for the cause!  
But have I now seen death? is this the way  
I must return to native dust? O sight  
Of terror, foul and ugly to behold,

Horrid to think, how horrible to feel! 465  
To whom thus Michaël. Death thou hast seen  
In his first shape on man; but many shapes  
Of Death, and many are the ways that lead  
To his grim cave, all dismal; yet to sense  
More terrible at th' entrance than within. 470  
Some, as thou saw'st, by violent stroke shall die,  
By fire, flood, famine, by intemp'rance more  
In meats and drinks, which on the Earth shall bring  
Diseases dire, of which a monstrous crew  
Before thee shall appear; that thou may'st know 475  
What misery th' inabstinence of Eve  
Shall bring on men. Immediately a place  
Before his eyes appear'd, sad, noisome, dark,  
A lazarus-house it seem'd, wherein were laid  
Numbers of all diseases, all maladies 480  
Of ghastly spasm, or racking torture, qualms  
Of heart-sick agony, all feverous kinds,  
Convulsions, epilepsies, fierce catarrhs,  
Intestine stone and ulcer, colic pangs,  
Demoniac phrenzy, moaping melancholy, 485  
And moon-struck madness, pining atrophy,  
Marasmus, and wide-wasting pestilence,  
Dropries, and asthmas, and joint-racking rheums,  
Dire was the tossing, deep the groans; Despair  
Tended the sick busiest from couch to couch; 490  
And over them triumphant Death his dart  
Shook, but delay'd to strike, though oft invoc'd

With vows, as their chief good, and final hope.  
Sight so deform what heart of rock could long  
Dry-ey'd behold? Adam could not, but wept, 495  
Though not of woman horn; compassion quell'd  
His best of man, and gave him up to tears  
A space, till firmer thoughts restrain'd excess;  
And scarce recovering words his plaint renew'd.

O miserable Mankind, to what fall 500  
Degraded, to what wretched state reserv'd!  
Better end here unborn. Why is life given  
To be thus wrested from us? rather why  
Obtruded on us thus? who if we knew  
What we receive, would either not accept 505  
Life offer'd, or soon beg to lay it down,  
Glad to be so dismiss'd in peace. Can thus  
Th' image of God in man created once  
So goodly and erect, though faulty since,  
To such unsightly sufferings be debas'd 510  
Under inhuman pains? Why should not man,  
Retaining still divine similitude  
In part, from such deformities be free,  
And for his Maker's image' sake exempt?

Their Maker's image, answer'd Michael, then  
Forsook them, when themselves they vilify'd 515  
To serve ungovern'd appetite, and took  
His image whom they serv'd, a brutish vice,  
Inductive mainly to the sin of Eve.  
Therefore so abject is their punishment, 520

Disfiguring not God's likeness, but their own,  
Or if his likeness, by themselves defac'd,  
While they pervert pure Nature's healthful rules  
To loathsome sickness, worthily, since they  
God's image did not reverence in themselves. 525

I yield it just, said Adam, and submit.  
But is there yet no other way, besides  
These painful passages, how we may come  
To death, and mix with our connatural dust?

There is, said Michael, if thou well observe 530  
The rule of not too much, by Temp'rance taught,  
In what thou eat'st and drink'st, seeking from thence  
Due nourishment, not gluttonous delight,  
Till many years over thy head return:  
So may'st thou live, till like ripe fruit thou drop 535  
Into thy mother's lap, or be with ease  
Gather'd, not harshly pluck'd, for death mature:  
This is old age; but then thou must outlive  
Thy youth, thy strength, thy beauty, which will change  
To wither'd, weak, and gray; thy senses then 540  
Obtuse, all taste of pleasure must forego,  
To what thou hast; and for the air of youth,  
Hopeful and cheerful, in thy blood will reign  
A melancholy damp of cold and dry  
To weigh thy spirits down, and last consume 545  
The balm of life. To whom our Ancestor.

Henceforth I fly not death, nor would prolong  
Life much, bent rather how I may be quit

Fairest and easiest of this cumbrous charge,  
Which I must keep till my appointed day 550  
Of rendring up, and patiently attend  
My dissolution. Michaël reply'd.

Nor love thy life, nor hate; but what thou liv'st  
Live well, how long or short permit to Heav'n:  
And now prepare thee for another sight. 555

He look'd, and saw a spacious plain, whereon  
Were tents of various hue; by some were herds  
Of cattel grazing; others, whence the sound  
Of instruments that made melodious chime  
Was heard, of harp and organ; and who mov'd 560  
Their stops and chords was seen; his volant touch  
Instinct through all proportions low and high  
Fled and pursu'd transverse the resonant fugue.  
In other part stood one who at the forge  
Lab'ring, two massy clods of ir'on and brass 565  
Had melted, (whether found where casual fire  
Had wasted woods on mountain or in vale  
Down to the veins of earth, thence gliding hot  
To some cave's mouth, or whether wash'd by stream  
From underground) the liquid ore he drain'd 570  
Into fit molds prepar'd; from which he form'd  
First his own tools; then, what might else be wrought  
Fusil or grav'n in metal. After these,  
But on the hither side, a different sort  
From the high neighb'ring hills, which was their seat,  
Down to the plain descended: by their guise 576



Just men they seem'd, and all their study bent  
To worship God aright, and know his works  
Not hid, nor those things last which might preserve  
Freedom and peace to men: they on the plain 580  
Long had not walk'd, when from the tents behold  
A bevy of fair women, richly gay  
In gems and wanton dress; to th' harp they sung  
Soft amorous ditties, and in dance came on:  
The men though grave ey'd them, and let their eyes  
Rove without rein, till in the amorous net 586  
Fast caught, they lik'd, and each his liking chose;  
And now of love they treat, till th' ev'ning star,  
Love's harbinger, appear'd; then all in heat  
They light the nuptial torch, and bid invoke 590  
Hymen, then first to marriage rites invok'd:  
With feast and music all the tents resound.  
Such happy interview and fair event  
Of love and youth not lost, songs, garlands, flowers,  
And charming symphonies attach'd the heart 595  
Of Adam, soon inclin'd to' admit delight,  
The bent of Nature; which he thus express'd.

True opener of mine eyes, prime Angel blest,  
Much better seems this vision, and more hope  
Of peaceful days portends than those two past; 600  
Those were of hate and death, or pain much worse,  
Here Nature seems fulfill'd in all her ends.

To whom thus Michael. Judge not what is best  
By pleasure, though to Nature seeming meet,

Created, as thou art, to nobler end 605  
Holy and pure, conformity divine.  
Those tents thou saw'st so pleasant were the tents  
Of Wickedness, wherein shall dwell his race  
Who slew his brother; studious they appear  
Of arts that polish life, inventors rare, 610  
Unmindful of their Maker, though his Spirit  
Taught them, but they his gifts acknowledg'd none.  
Yet they a beauteous offspring shall beget;  
For that fair female troop thou saw'st, that seem'd  
Of goddesses, so blithe, so smooth, so gay, 615  
Yet empty of all good, wherein consists  
Woman's domestic honor and chief praise;  
Bred only and completed to the taste  
Of lustful appetite, to sing, to dance,  
To dress, and troll the tongue, and roll the eye. 620  
To these that sober race of men, whose lives  
Religious titled them The Sons of God,  
Shall yield up all their virtue, all their fame  
Ignobly, to the trains and to the smiles  
Of these fair atheists, and now swim in joy, 625  
Erelong to swim at large; and laugh, for which  
The world ere long a world of tears must weep.  
To whom thus Adam of short joy bereft.  
O pity' and shame, that they who to live well  
Enter'd so fair, should turn aside to tread 980  
Paths indirect, or in the mid way faint!  
But still I see the tenor of man's woe

Holds on the same, from woman to begin.

From man's effeminate slackness it begins,  
Said th' angel, who should better hold his place 635  
By wisdom and superior gifts receiv'd.  
But now prepare thee for another scene.

He look'd, and saw wide territory spread  
Before him, towns, and rural works between,  
Cities of men with lofty gates and towers, 640  
Concourse in arms, fierce faces threat'ning war,  
Giants of mighty bone, and bold emprise;  
Part wield their arms, part curb the foaming flood,  
Single or in array of battel rang'd  
Both horse and foot, nor idly must'ring stood; 645  
One way a band select from forage drives  
A herd of beeves, fair oxen and fair kine  
From a fat meadow ground; or fleecy flock,  
Ewes and their bleating lambs over the plain,  
Their booty; scarce with life the shepherds fly, 650  
But call in aid, which makes a bloody fray;  
With cruel torneament the squadrons join;  
Where cattel pastur'd late, now scatter'd lies  
With carcasses and arms th' infanguin'd field  
Deserted: others to a city strong 655  
Lay siege, incamp'd; by battery, scale, and mine,  
Assaulting; others from the wall defend  
With dart and javelin, stones, and sulphurous fire; ]  
On each hand slaughter and gigantic deeds.  
In other part the scepter'd heralds call 660

To council in the city gates : anon  
Gray-headed men and grave, with warriors mix'd,  
Asssemble, and harangues are heard, but soon  
In factious opposition, till at last  
Of middle age one rising, eminent 665  
In wise deport, spake much of right and wrong,  
Of justice, of religion, truth and peace, o  
And judgment from above : him old and young  
Exploded and had seisd with violent hands,  
Had not a cloud descending snatch'd him thence 670  
Unseen amid the throng : so violence  
Proceeded, and oppression, and sword-law  
Through all the plain, and refuge none was found.  
Adam was all in tears, and to his guide  
Lamenting turn'd full sad : O what are these, 675  
Death's ministers, not men, who thus deal death  
Inhumanly to men, and multiply  
Ten thousandfold the sin of him who slew  
His brother : for of whom such massacre  
Make they but of their brethren, men of men ? 680  
But who was that just man, whom had not Heav'n  
Rescued, had in his righteousness been lost ?  
, To whom thus Michael. These are the product  
Of those ill-mated marriages thou saw'st ; 684  
Where good with bad were match'd, who of them-  
Abhor to join ; and by imprudence mix'd, [selves  
Produce prodigious births of body' or mind.  
Such were these giants, men of high renown ;

For in those days Might only shall be' admir'd,  
And Valor and heroic Virtue call'd; 690  
To overcome in battel, and subdue  
Nations, and bring home spoils with infinite  
Man-slaughter, shall be held the highest pitch  
Of human glory, and for glory done  
Of triumph, to be stil'd great Conquerors, 695  
Patrons of Mankind, Gods, and Sons of Gods,  
Destroyers rightlier call'd and Plagues of men.  
Thus fame shall be achiev'd, renown on Earth,  
And what most merits fame in silence hid.  
But he the sev'nth from thee, whom thou beheldst  
The only righteous in a world perverse, 701  
And therefore hated, therefore so beset  
With foes for daring single to be just,  
And utter odious truth, that God would come  
To judge them with his saints: him the Most High  
Rapt in a balmy cloud, with winged steeds 706  
Did, as thou saw'st, receive, to walk with God  
High in salvation and the climes of bliss,  
Exempt from death; to shew thee what reward  
Awaits the good, the rest what punishment; 710  
Which now direct thine eyes and soon behold.  
He look'd, and saw the face of things quite chang'd;  
The brazen throat of War had ceas'd to roar;  
All now was turn'd to jollity and game,  
To luxury and riot, feast and dance, 715  
Marrying or prostituting, as beset,



Rape or adultery, where passing fair  
Allur'd them; thence from cups to civil broils.  
At length a reverend fire among them came,  
And of their doings great dislike declar'd 720  
And testify'd against their ways; he oft  
Frequented their assemblies, where so met,  
Triumphs or festivals, and to them preach'd  
Conversion and repentance, as to souls  
In prison under judgments imminent: 725  
But all in vain: which when he saw, he ceas'd  
Contending, and remov'd his tents far off;  
Then from the mountain hewing timber tall,  
Began to build a vessel of huge bulk,  
Measur'd by cubit, length, and breadth, and highth,  
Smear'd round with pitch, and in the side a door 735  
Contriv'd, and of provisions laid in large  
For man and beast: when lo, a wonder strange!  
Of ev'ry beast, and bird, and insect small  
Came sev'ns, and pairs, and enter'd in, as taught 735  
Their order: last the fire and his three sons,  
With their four wives; and God made fast the door.  
Mean while the south-wind rose, and with black wings  
Wide hovering, all the clouds together drove  
From under Heav'n; the hills to their supply 740  
Vapor, and exhalation dusk and moist,  
Sent up amain; and now the thicken'd sky  
Like a dark cieling flood; down rush'd the rain  
Impetuous, and continued till the Earth

No more was seen ; the floating vessel swum 745  
Uplifted, and secure with beaked prow  
Rode tilting o'er the waves ; all dwellings else  
Flood overwhelm'd, and them with all their pomp  
Deep under water roll'd ; sea cover'd sea,  
Sea without shore ; and in their palaces 750  
Where Luxury late reign'd sea-monsters whelp'd  
And stabled ; of mankind, so numerous late,  
All left, in one small bottom swum imbark'd.  
How didst thou grieve then, Adam, to behold  
The end of all thy offspring, end so sad, 755  
Depopulation ? thee another flood,  
Of tears and sorrow' a flood thee also drown'd,  
And sunk thee as thy sons ; till gently rear'd  
By th' angel, on thy feet thou stood'st at last,  
Though comfortless, as when a father mourns 760  
His children, all in view destroy'd at once ;  
And scarce to th' angel utter'dst thus thy plaint.

O Visions ill foreseen ! better had I  
Liv'd ignorant of future, so had borne  
My part of evil only, each day's lot 765  
Enough to bear ; those now, that were dispens'd  
The burd'n of many ages, on me light  
At once, by my foreknowledge gaining birth  
Abortive, to torment me ere their being,  
With thought that they must be. Let no man seek  
Henceforth to be foretold what shall befall 771  
Him or his children ; ev'il he may be sure,

Which neither his foreknowing can prevent,  
And he the future evil shall no less  
In apprehension than in substance feel 775  
Grievous to bear: but that care now is past,  
Man is not whom to warn: those few escap'd  
Famine and anguish will at last consume  
Wandering that watry desert: I had hope  
When violence was ceas'd, and war on Earth, 780  
All would have then gone well, peace would have  
With length of happy days the race of man; [crown'd  
But I was far deceiv'd; for now I see  
Peace to corrupt no less than war to waste.  
How comes it thus? unfold celestial Guide, 785  
And whether here the race of man will end.  
To whom thus Michael. Those whom last thou saw'st  
In triumph and luxurious wealth, are they  
First seen in acts of prowess eminent  
And great exploits, but of true virtue void; 790  
Who having spilt much blood, and done much waste  
Subduing nations, and achiev'd thereby  
Fame in the world, high titles, and rich prey,  
Shall change their course to pleasure, ease, and sloth,  
Surfeit, and lust, till wantonness and pride 795  
Raise out of friendship hostile deeds in peace.  
The conquer'd also, and enslav'd by war  
Shall with their freedom lost all virtue lose  
And fear of God, from whom their piety feign'd  
In sharp contest of battle found no aid 800

Against invaders; therefore cool'd in zeal  
Thenceforth shall practice how to live secure,  
Worldly or dissolute, on what their lords  
Shall leave them to enjoy; for th' Earth shall bear  
More than enough, that temp'rance may be try'd:  
So all shall turn degenerate, all deprav'd, 806  
Justice and temp'rance, truth and faith forgot;  
One man except, the only son of Light  
In a dark age, against example good,  
Against allurements, custom, and a world 810  
Offended; fearless of reproach and scorn,  
Or violence, he of their wicked ways  
Shall them admonish, and before them set  
The paths of righteousness, how much more safe,  
And full of peace, denouncing wrath to come 815  
On their impenitence; and shall return  
Of them derided, but of God observ'd  
The one just man alive; by his command  
Shall build a wondrous ark, as thou beheldst,  
To save himself and household from amidst 820  
A world devote to universal wrack.  
No sooner he with them of man and beast  
Select for life shall in the ark be lodg'd,  
And shelter'd round, but all the cataraets  
Of Heav'n set open on the Earth shall pour 825  
Rain day and night; all fountains of the deep  
Broke up, shall heave the ocean to usurp  
Beyond all bounds, till inundation rise

Above the highest hills : then shall this mount  
Of Paradise by might of waves be mov'd 830  
Out of his place, push'd by the horned Flood,  
With all his verdure spoil'd, and trees adrift,  
Down the great river to the opening gulf,  
And there take root an island salt and bare,  
The haunt of seals, and orcs, and sea-mews clang :  
To teach thee that God attributes to place 836  
No sanctity, if none be thither brought  
By men who there frequent, or therein dwell.  
And now what further shall ensue, behold.

He look'd, and saw the ark hull on the flood, 840  
Which now abated ; for the clouds were fled,  
Driv'n by a keen north-wind, that blowing dry  
Wrinkled the face of Deluge, as decay'd ;  
And the clear sun on his wide watry glass  
Gaz'd hot, and of the fresh wave largely drew, 845  
As after thirst, which made their flowing shrink  
From standing lake to tripping ebb, that stole  
With soft foot tow'ards the Deep, who now had slopt  
His sluces, as the Heav'n his windows shut.  
The ark no more now flotes, but seems on ground  
Fast on the top of some high mountain fix'd. 851  
And now the tops of hills as rocks appear ;  
With clamor thence the rapid currents drive  
Tow'ards the retreating sea their furious tide.  
Forthwith from out the ark a raven flies, 855  
And after him, the surer messenger,



A dove sent forth once and again to spy  
Green tree or ground whereon his foot may light;  
The second time returning, in his bill  
An olive leaf he brings, pacific sign: 860  
Anon dry ground appears, and from his ark  
The ancient fire descends with all his train;  
Then with uplifted hands, and eyes devout,  
Grateful to Heav'n, over his head beholds  
A dewy cloud, and in the cloud a bow 865  
Conspicuous with three list'd colors gay,  
Betokening peace from God, and covenant new.  
Whereat the heart of Adam erst so sad  
Greatly rejoic'd, and thus his joy broke forth.

O thou who future things canst represent 870  
As present, heav'nly Instructor, I revive  
At this last sight, assur'd that man shall live  
With all the creatures, and their seed preserve.  
Far less I now lament for one whole world  
Of wicked sons destroy'd than I rejoice 875  
For one man found so perfect and so just,  
That God vouchsafes to raise another world  
From him, and all his anger to forget.  
But say, what mean those color'd streaks in Heav'n  
Distended as the brow of God appear'd, 880  
Or serve they as a flow'ry verge to bind  
The fluid skirts of that same watry cloud,  
Lest it again dissolve and show'r the Earth?  
To whom th' arch-angel. Dext'rously thou aim'st;

So willingly doth God remit his ire, 885  
Though late repenting him of man deprav'd,  
Griev'd at his heart, when looking down he saw  
The whole Earth fill'd with violence, and all flesh  
Corrupting each their way; yet those remov'd,  
Such grace shall one just man find in his sight, 890  
That he relents, not to blot out mankind,  
And makes a covenant never to destroy  
The Earth again by flood, nor let the sea  
Surpass his bounds, nor rain to drown the world  
With man therein or beast; but when he brings 895  
Over the Earth a cloud, will therein set  
His triple-color'd bow, whereon to look,  
And call to mind his covenant: Day and Night,  
Seed-time and Harvest, Heat and hoary Frost, 899  
Shall hold their course, till fire purge all things new,  
Both Heav'n and Earth wherein the just shall dwell.

*The End of the Eleventh Book.*

# PARADISE LOST.

## BOOK XII.

### The Argument.

The angel Michael continues from the Flood to relate what shall succeed; then, in the mention of Abraham, comes by degrees to explain, who that Seed of the Woman shall be, which was promised Adam and Eve in the fall; his incarnation, death, resurrection, and ascension; the state of the Church till his second coming. Adam greatly satisfied and recomforted by these relations and promises descends the Hill with Michael; wakens Eve, who all this while had slept, but with gentle dreams compos'd to quietness of mind and submission. Michael in either hand leads them out of Paradise, the fiery sword waving behind them, and the cherubim taking their stations to guard the place.

As one who in his journey bates at noon,  
Though bent on speed; so here th' arch-angel paus'd  
Betwixt the world destroy'd and world restor'd,  
If Adam ought perhaps might interpose;  
Then with transition sweet new speech resumes. 5  
Thus thou hast seen one world begin and end;  
And man as from a second stock proceed.  
Much thou hast yet to see, but I perceive  
Thy mortal fight to fail; objects divine  
Must needs impair and weary human sense: 10  
Henceforth what is to come I will relate,  
Thou therefore give due audience, and attend.  
This second source of men, while yet but few,  
And while the dread of judgment past remains  
Fresh in their minds, fearing the Deity, 15

With some regard to what is just and right  
Shall lead their lives, and multiply apace,  
Lab'ring the soil, and reaping plenteous crop,  
Corn wine and oil; and from the herd or flock,  
Oft sacrificing bullock, lamb, or kid, 20  
With large wine-offerings pour'd, and sacred feast  
Shall spend their days in joy unblam'd, and dwell  
Long time in peace by families and tribes  
Under paternal rule; till one shall rise  
Of proud ambitious heart, who not content 25  
With fair equality, fraternal state,  
Will arrogate dominion undeserv'd  
Over his brethren, and quite dispossess  
Concord and law of Nature from the Earth,  
Hunting (and men not beasts shall be his game) 30  
With war and hostile snare such as refuse  
Subjection to his empire tyrannous:  
A mighty Hunter thence he shall be stil'd  
Before the Lord, as in despite of Heav'n,  
Or from Heav'n claiming second sovranty; 35  
And from rebellion shall derive his name,  
Though of rebellion others he accuse.  
He with a crew, whom like ambition joins  
With him or under him to tyrannize,  
Marching from Eden tow'ards the West, shall find  
The plain, wherein a black bituminous gurge 41  
Boils out from under ground, the mouth of Hell;  
Of brick and of that stuff they cast to build

A city' and tower, whose top may reach to Heav'n;  
And get themselves a name, lest far dispers'd 45  
In foreign lands their memory be lost,  
Regardless whether good or evil fame.  
But God who oft descends to visit men  
Unseen, and through their habitations walks  
To mark their doings, them beholding soon, 50  
Comes down to see their city, ere the tower  
Obstruct Heav'n-tow'rs, and in derision sets  
Upon their tongues a various spi'rit to raise  
Quite out their native language, and instead  
To sow a jangling noise of words unknown: 55  
Forthwith a hideous gabble rises loud  
Among the builders; each to other calls  
Not understood, till hoarse, and all in rage,  
As mock'd they storm; great laughter was in Heav'n  
And looking down, to see the hubbub strange 60  
And hear the din; thus was the building left  
Ridiculous, and the work Confusion nam'd.

Whereto thus Adam fatherly displeas'd.  
O execrable son so to aspire  
Above his brethren, to himself assuming 65  
Authority usurp'd, from God not given:  
He gave us only over beast, fish, fowl,  
Dominion absolute; that right we hold  
By his donation; but man over men  
He made not lord; such title to himself 70  
Reserving, human left from human free.



But this usurper his encroachment proud  
Stays not on man; to God his tower intends  
Siege and defiance: wretched man! what food  
Will he convey up thither to sustain 75  
Himself and his rash army, where thin air  
Above the clouds will pine his entrails gross,  
And famish him of breath, if not of bread? <sup>u</sup>

To whom thus Michael. Justly thou abhorr'st  
That son, who on the quiet state of men 80  
Such trouble brought, affecting to subdue  
Rational liberty; yet know withal,  
Since thy origi'nal lapse, true Liberty  
Is lost, which always with right Reason dwells  
'Twinn'd, and from her hath no dividual being: 85  
Reason in man obscur'd, or not obey'd,  
Immediately inordinate desires  
And upstart passions catch the government  
From Reason, and to servitude reduce  
Man till then free. Therefore since he permits 90  
Within himself unworthy powers to reign  
Over free Reason, God in judgment just  
Subjects him from without to violent lords;  
Who oft as undeservedly inthral  
His outward freedom: tyranny must be, 95  
Though to the tyrant thereby no excuse.  
Yet sometimes nations will decline so low  
From virtue, which is reason, that no wrong,  
But justice, and some fatal curse annex'd

Deprives them of their outward liberty, 100  
Their inward lost: witness th' irreverent son  
Of him who built the ark, who for the shame  
Done to his father heard this heavy curse,  
*Servant of servants*, on his vicious race.  
Thus will this latter, as the former world, 105  
Still tend from bad to worse, till God at last  
Wearied with their iniquities, withdraw  
His presence from among them, and avert  
His holy eyes; resolving from thenceforth  
To leave them to their own polluted ways; 110  
And one peculiar nation to select  
From all the rest, of whom to be invoc'd,  
A nation from one faithful man to spring:  
Him on this side Euphrates yet residing,  
Bred up in idol-worship; O that men 115  
(Canst thou believe?) should be so stupid grown,  
While yet the Patriarch liv'd who 'scap'd the flood,  
As to forsake the living God, and fall  
To worship their own work in wood and stone  
For gods! yet him God the Most High vouchsafes  
To call by vision from his father's house, 121  
His kindred and false gods, into a land  
Which he will shew him, and from him will raise  
A mighty nation, and upon him shower  
His benediction so, that in his Seed 125  
All nations shall be blest; he strait obeys,  
Not knowing to what land, yet firm believes:

I see him, but thou canst not, with what faith  
He leaves his gods, his friends, and native soil  
Ur of Chaldea, passing now the ford 130  
To Haran, after him a cumbrous train  
Of herds and flocks, and numerous servitude;  
Not wand'ring poor, but trusting all his wealth  
With God, who call'd him, in a land unknown.  
Canaan he now attains; I see his tents 135  
Pitch'd about Sechem, and the neighb'ring plain  
Of Moreh; there by promise he receives  
Gift to his progeny of all that land,  
From Hamath northward to the Desert south,  
(Things by their names I call, though yet unnam'd)  
From Hermon east to the great western sea; 141  
Mount Hermon, yonder sea, each place behold  
In prospect, as I point them; on the shore  
Mount Carmel; here the double-founted stream  
Jordan, true limit eastward; but his sons 145  
Shall dwell to Senir, that long ridge of hills.  
This ponder, that all nations of the Earth  
Shall in his Seed be blessed; by that Seed  
Is meant thy great Deliverer, who shall bruise  
The serpent's head; whereof to thee anon 150  
Plainlier shall be reveal'd. This patriarch blest,  
Whom faithful Abraham due time shall call,  
A son, and of his son a grand-child leaves,  
Like him in faith, in wisdom, and renown;  
The grand-child with twelve sons increas'd departs

From Canaan, to a land hereafter call'd 156  
Egypt, divided by the river Nile;  
See where it flows, disgorging at sev'n mouths  
Into the sea: to sojourn in that land  
He comes invited by a younger son 160  
In time of dearth, a son whose worthy deeds  
Raise him to be the second in that realm  
Of Pharaoh: there he dies, and leaves his race  
Growing into a nation, and now grown  
Suspected to a sequester'd king, who seeks 163  
To stop their overgrowth, as inmate guests  
Too numerous; whence of guests he makes them slaves  
Inhospitably, and kills their infant males:  
'Till by two brethren (those two brethren call  
Moses and Aaron) sent from God to clame 170  
His people from inthralment, they return  
With glory' and spoil back to their promis'd land.  
But first the lawless tyrant, who denies  
To know their God, or message to regard,  
Must be compell'd by signs and judgments dire; 173  
'To blood unshed the rivers must be turn'd;  
Frogs, lice, and flies, must all his palace fill  
With loath'd intrusion, and fill all the land;  
His cattel must of rot and murren die;  
Botches and blains must all his flesh imboss, 180  
And all his people; thunder mix'd with hail,  
Hail mix'd with fire must rend th' Egyptian sky,  
And wheel on th' Earth, devouring where it rolls;

What it devours not, herb, or fruit, or grain,  
A darksome cloud of locusts swarming down 185  
Must eat, and on the ground leave nothing green;  
Darkness must overshadow all his bounds,  
Palpable darkness, and blot out three days;  
Last with one midnight stroke all the first-born  
Of Egypt must lie dead. Thus with ten wounds 190  
The river-dragon tam'd at length submits  
To let his sojourners depart, and oft  
Humbles his stubborn heart, but still as ice  
More harden'd after thaw, till in his rage  
Pursuing whom he late dismiss'd, the sea 195  
Swallows him with his host, but them lets pass  
As on dry land between two crystal walls,  
Aw'd by the rod of Moses so to stand  
Divided, till his rescued gain their shore :  
Such wondrous power God to his faint will lend, 200  
Though present in his angel, who shall go  
Before them in a cloud, and pill'ar of fire,  
By day a cloud, by night a pill'ar of fire,  
To guide them in their journey, and remove  
Behind them, while th' obdurate king pursues : 205  
All night he will pursue, but his approach  
Darkness defends between till morning watch;  
Then through the fiery pillar and the cloud  
God looking forth will trouble all his host,  
And craze their chariot wheels: when by command  
Moses once more his potent rod extends 211



Over the sea; the sea his rod obeys;  
On their imbattel'd ranks the waves return,  
And overwhelm their war: the race elect  
Safe towards Canaan from the shore advance 215  
Through the wild desert, not the readiest way,  
Lest entering on the Canaanite alarm'd  
War terrify them inexpert, and fear  
Return them back to Egypt, chusing rather  
Inglorious life with servitude; for life 220  
To noble and ignoble is more sweet  
Untrain'd in arms, where Rashness leads not on.  
This also shall they gain by their delay  
In the wide wilderness, there they shall found  
Their government, and their great senate chuse 225  
Through the twelve Tribes, to rule by laws ordain'd:  
God from the mount of Sinai, whose gray top  
Shall tremble, he descending, will himself  
In thunder, lightning, and loud trumpet's sound,  
Ordain them laws; part such as appertain 230  
To civil justice, part religious rites  
Of sacrifice, informing them, by types  
And shadows, of that destin'd Seed to bruise  
The serpent, by what means he shall achieve  
Mankind's deliverance. But the voice of God 235  
To mortal ear is dreadful; they beseech  
That Moses might report to them his will,  
And terror cease; he grants what they besought,  
Instructed that to God is no access

Without Mediator, whose high office now      240  
Moses in figure bears, to introduce  
One greater, of whose day he shall foretel,  
And all the prophets in their age the times  
Of great Messi'ah shall sing. Thus laws and rites  
Establiſh'd, ſuch delight hath God in men      245  
Obedient to his will, that he vouchsafes  
Among them to ſet up his tabernacle,  
The Holy One with mortal men to dwell:  
By his preſcript a ſanctuary is fram'd  
Of cedar, overlaid with gold, therein      250  
An ark, and in the ark his teſtimony,  
The records of his covenant, over theſe  
A mercy-ſeat of gold between the wings  
Of two bright cherubim; before him burn  
Sev'n lamps as in a zodiac repreſenting      255  
The heav'nly fires; over the tent a cloud  
Shall reſt by day, a fiery gleam by night,  
Save when they journey, and at length they come,  
Conducted by his angel to the land  
Promis'd to Abraham and his ſeed: the reſt      260  
Were long to tell, how many battels fought,  
How many kings deſtroy'd, and kingdoms won,  
Or how the ſun ſhall in mid Heav'n ſtand ſtill  
A day entire, and Night's due courſe adjourn,  
Man's voice commanding, Sun in Gibeon ſtand,      265  
And thou Moon in the vale of Aialon,  
Till Iſrael overcome; ſo call the third

From Abraham, son of Isaac, and from him  
His whole descent, who thus shall Canaan win.

Here Adam interpos'd. O Sent from Heav'n, 270  
Inlightner of my darknes, gracious things  
Thou hast reveal'd, those chiefly which concern  
Just Abraham and his seed: now first I find  
Mine eyes true opening, and my heart much eas'd,  
Erewhile perplex'd with thoughts what would become  
Of me and all mankind; but now I see 276  
His day, in whom all nations shall be blest,  
Favor unmerited by me, who sought  
Forbidden knowledge by forbidden means.

This yet I apprehend not, why to those 280  
Among whom God will deign to dwell on Earth  
So many and so various laws are given;  
So many laws argue so many sins  
Among them; how can God with such reside?

To whom thus Michael. Doubt not but that Sin  
Will reign among them, as of thee begot; 286  
And therefore was law giv'n them to evince  
Their natural pravity, by stirring up  
Sin against Law to fight: that when they see  
Law can discover sin, but not remove, 290  
Save by those shadowy expiations weak,  
The blood of bulls and goats, they may conclude  
Some blood more precious must be paid for man,  
Just for unjust, that in such righteousness  
To them by faith imputed, they may find 295

Justification towards God, and peace  
Of conscience, which the law by ceremonies  
Cannot appease, nor man the moral part  
Perform, and not performing cannot live.  
So law appears imperfect, and but given 300  
With purpose to resign them in full time  
Up to a better covenant, disciplin'd  
From shadowy types to truth, from flesh to spirit,  
From imposition of strict laws to free  
Acceptance of large grace, from servile fear 305  
To filial, works of law to works of faith.  
And therefore shall not Moses, though of God  
Highly belov'd, being but the minister  
Of Law, his people into Canaan lead;  
But Joshua whom the Gentiles Jesus call, 310  
His name and office bearing, who shall quell  
The adversary serpent, and bring back  
Through the world's wilderness long wander'd man  
Safe to eternal paradise of rest.  
Mean while they in their earthly Canaan plac'd 315  
Long time shall dwell and prosper, but when sins  
National interrupt their public peace,  
Provoking God to raise them enemies;  
From whom as oft he saves them penitent  
By judges first, then under kings; of whom 320  
The second, both for piety renown'd  
And puissant deeds, a promise shall receive  
Irrevocable, that his regal throne

For ever shall endure ; the like shall sing  
All Prophecy, that of the royal stock 325  
Of David (so I name this king) shall rise  
A son, the Woman's Seed to thee foretold,  
Foretold to Abraham, as in whom shall trust  
All nations, and to kings foretold, of kings  
The last, for of his reign shall be no end. 330  
But first a long succession must ensue,  
And his next son, for wealth and wisdom fam'd,  
The clouded ark of God, till then in tents  
Wand'ring, shall in a glorious temple' inshrine.  
Such follow him as shall be register'd 335  
Part good, part bad, of bad the longer scroll,  
Whose foul idolatries, and other faults  
Heap'd to the popular sum, will so incense  
God, as to leave them, and expose their land,  
Their city', his temple, and his holy ark 340  
With all his sacred things, a scorn and prey  
To that proud city, whose high walls thou saw'st  
Left in confusion, Babylon thence call'd.  
There in captivity he lets them dwell  
The space of sev'nty years, then brings them back,  
Remenibring mercy, and his covenant sworn 346  
To David, stablish'd as the days of Heav'n.  
Return'd from Babylon by leave of kings  
Their lords, whom God dispos'd, the house of God  
They first re-edify, and for a while 350  
In mean estate live moderate, till grown



In wealth and multitude, factious they grow;  
But first among the priests dissention springs,  
Men who attend the altar, and should most  
Endeavor peace: their strife pollution brings 355  
Upon the temple' itself: at last they seize  
The scepter, and regard not David's sons,  
Then lose it to a stranger, that the true  
Anointed king Messiah might be born  
Barr'd of his right; yet at his birth a star 360  
Unseen before in Heav'n proclaims him come,  
And guides the eastern Sages, who inquire  
His place, to offer incense, myrrh, and gold;  
His place of birth a solemn angel tells  
'To simple shepherds, keeping watch by night; 365  
They gladly thither haste, and by a quire  
Of squadron'd angels hear his carol sung.  
A virgin is his mother, but his sire  
The power of the Most High; he shall ascend  
The throne hereditary, and bound his reign 370  
With Earth's wide bounds, his glory with the Heav'n  
He ceas'd, discerning Adam with such joy  
Surcharg'd, as had like grief been dew'd in tears,  
Without the vent of words, which these he breath'd.  
O Prophet of glad tidings, finisher 375  
Of utmost hope! now clear I understand  
What oft my steddier thoughts have search'd in vain;  
Why our great expectation should be call'd  
The Seed of Woman: Virgin Mother, hail.

High in the love of Heav'n, yet from my loins 380  
Thou shalt proceed, and from thy womb the Son  
Of God Most High; so God with Man unites.  
Needs must the serpent now his capital bruise  
Expect with mortal pain: say where and when 384  
Their fight, what stroke shall bruise the victor's heel.

To whom thus Michael. Dream not of their fight,  
As of a duel, or the local wounds

Of head or heel: not therefore joins the Son  
Manhood to Godhead, with more strength to foil  
Thy enemy; nor so is overcome 390

Satan, whose fall from Heav'n, a deadlier bruise,  
Disabled not to give thee thy death's wound:

Which he, who comes thy Saviour, shall recure,  
Not by destroying Satan, but his works  
In thee and in thy seed: nor can this be 395

But by fulfilling that which thou didst want,  
Obedience to the law of God, impos'd  
On penalty of death, and suffering death,

Thro' alty to thy transgression due,  
And due to theirs which out of thine will grow: 400  
So only can high justice rest appaid.

The law of God exact he shall fulfil  
Both by obedience and by love, though love  
Alone fulfil the law; thy punishment  
He shall endure by coming in the flesh

To a reproachful life and cursed death,  
Proclaiming life to all who shall believe 405

In his redemption, and that his obedience  
Imputed becomes theirs by faith, his merits  
'To save them, not their own, though legal works.  
For this he shall live hated, be blasphem'd, 411  
Seis'd on by force, judg'd, and to death condemn'd  
A shameful and accurs'd, nail'd to the cross  
By his own nation, slain for bringing life;  
But to the cross he nails thy enemies, 415  
The law that is against thee, and the sins  
Of all mankind, with him there crucify'd,  
Never to hurt them more who rightly trust  
In this his satisfaction; so he dies,  
But soon revives; Death over him no power 420  
Shall long usurp; ere the third dawning light  
Return, the stars of morn shall see him rise  
Out of his grave, fresh as the dawning light,  
Thy ransom paid, which man from death redeems,  
His death for man, as many as offer'd life 425  
Neglect not, and the benefit embrace  
By faith not void of works: this godlike act  
Annuls thy doom, the death thou shouldst have dy'd,  
In sin for ever lost from life; this act  
Shall bruise the head of Satan, crush his strength, 430  
Defeating Sin and Death, his two main arms,  
And fix far deeper in his head their stings  
Than temp'ral death shall bruise the victor's heel,  
Or theirs whom he redeems, a death like sleep,  
A gentle waisting to immortal life. 435

Nor after resurrection shall he stay  
Longer on Earth than certain times to' appear  
To his disciples, men who in his life  
Still follow'd him; to them shall leave in charge  
To teach all nations what of him they learn'd 440  
And his salvation, them who shall believe  
Baptizing in the profuent stream, the sign  
Of washing them from guilt of sin to life  
Pure, and in mind prepar'd, if so befall,  
For death, like that which the Redeemer dy'd. 445  
All nations they shall teach; for from that day  
Not only to the sons of Abraham's loins  
Salvation shall be preach'd, but to the sons  
Of Abraham's faith wherever through the world;  
So in his Seed all nations shall be blest. 450  
Then to the Heav'n of Heav'ns he shall ascend  
With victory, triumphing through the air  
Over his foes and thine; there shall surprize  
The serpent, Prince of Air, and drag in chains  
Through all his realm, and there confounded leave;  
Then enter into glory, and resume 456  
His seat at God's right hand, exalted high  
Above all names in Heav'n; and thence shall come,  
When this world's dissolution shall be ripe,  
With glory' and power to judge both quick and dead,  
To judge th' unfaithful dead, but to reward 461  
His faithful, and receive them into bliss,  
Whether in Heav'n or Earth, for then the Earth  
T iii

Shall all be paradise, far happier place  
'Than this of Eden, and far happier days. 465

So spake th' arch-angel Michael, then paus'd,  
As at the world's great period; and our fire  
Replete with joy and wonder thus reply'd.

O Goodness infinite, Goodness immense!  
'That all this good of evil shall produce, 470

And evil turn to good; more wonderful  
'Than that which by creation first brought forth  
Light out of darkness! full of doubt I stand,  
Whether I should repent me now of sin  
By me done and occasion'd, or rejoice 475

Much more, that much more good thereof shall spring,  
'To God more glory, more good will to men  
From God, and over wrath grace shall abound.

But say, if our Deliverer up to Heav'n  
Must reascend, what will betide the few 480  
His faithful, left among th' unfaithful herd,  
'The enemies of truth? who then shall guide  
His people, who defend? will they not deal  
Worse with his followers than with him they dealt?

Be sure they will, said th' angel; but from Heav'n  
He to his own a Comforter will send, 486

The promise of the Father, who shall dwell  
His Spi'rit within them, and the law of faith  
Working through love, upon their hearts shall write,  
'To guide them in all truth, and also arm 490  
With spiritual armour, able to resist



Satan's assaults, and quench his fiery darts,  
What man can do against them, not afraid,  
Though to the death, against such cruelties  
With inward consolations recompens'd, 495  
And oft supported so as shall amaze  
Their proudest persecutors: for the Spirit  
Pour'd first on his Apostles, whom he sends  
To' evangelize the nations, then on all  
Baptiz'd, shall them with wondrous gifts indue 500  
To speak all tongues, and do all miracles,  
As did their Lord before them. Thus they win  
Great numbers of each nation to receive  
With joy the tidings brought from Heav'n: at length  
Their ministry perform'd, and race well run, 505  
Their doctrine and their story written left,  
They die; but in their room, as they forewarn,  
Wolves shall succeed for teachers, grievous wolves,  
Who all the sacred mysteries of Heav'n  
To their own vile advantages shall turn 510  
Of lucre and ambition, and the truth  
With superstitions and traditions taint,  
Left only in those written records pure,  
Though not but by the Spirit understood.  
Then shall they seek to' avail themselves of names,  
Places, and titles, and with these to join 516  
Secular power; though feigning still to act  
By spiritual, to themselves appropriating  
The Spirit of God, promis'd alike and given

To all believers; and from that pretence, 520  
Spiritual laws by carnal power shall force  
On every conscience; laws which none shall find  
Left them inroll'd, or what the Spi'rit within  
Shall on the heart ingrave. What will they then  
But force the Spi'rit of Grace itself, and bind 525  
His confort Liberty? what, but unbuild  
His living temples, built by faith to stand,  
Their own faith not another's? for on Earth  
Who against faith and conscience can be heard  
Infallible? yet many will presume: 530  
Whence heavy persecution shall arise  
On all who in the worship persevere  
Of spi'rit and truth; the rest, far greater part,  
Will deem in outward rites and specious forms  
Religion satisfy'd; Truth shall retire 535  
Bestuck with stand'rous darts, and works of faith  
Rarely be found: so shall the world go on,  
To good malignant, to bad men benign,  
Under her own weight groaning, till the day  
Appear of respiration to the just, 540  
And vengeance to the wicked, at return  
Of him so lately promis'd to thy aid  
The Woman's Seed, obscurely then foretold,  
Now amplier known thy Saviour and thy Lord,  
Last in the clouds from Heav'n to be reveal'd 545  
In glory of the Father, to dissolve  
Satan with his perverted world, then raise

From the conflagrant mass, purg'd and refin'd,  
New Heav'ns, new Earth, ages of endless date  
Founded in righteousness and peace and love, 550  
To bring forth fruits, joy and eternal bliss.

He ended; and thus Adam last reply'd.  
How soon hath thy prediction, Seer blest,  
Measur'd this transient world, the race of Time,  
Till Time stand fix'd? beyond is all abyss, 555  
Eternity, whose end no eye can reach.

Greatly instructed I shall hence depart,  
Greatly in peace of thought, and have my fill  
Of knowledge, what this vessel can contain;  
Beyond which was my folly to aspire. 560

Henceforth I learn, that to obey is best,  
And love with fear the only God, to walk  
As in his presence, ever to observe  
His providence, and on him sole depend,  
Merciful over all his works, with good 565  
Still overcoming evil, and by small

Accomplishing great things, by things deem'd weak  
Subverting worldly strong, and worldly wise  
By simply meek; that suffering for truth's sake  
Is fortitude to highest victory, 570

And to the faithful death the gate of life;  
Taught this by his example whom I now  
Acknowledge my Redeemer ever blest.

To whom thus also th' angel last reply'd.  
This having learn'd, thou hast attain'd the sum 575

Of wisdom ; hope no high'er, though all the stars  
Thou knew'st by name, and all th' ethereal powers,  
All secrets of the deep, all Nature's works,  
Or works of God in Heav'n, Air, Earth, or Sea,  
And all the riches of this world enjoy'dst, 580  
And all the rule, one empire ; only add  
Deeds to thy knowledge answerable, add faith,  
Add virtue, patience, temperance, add love,  
By name to come call'd Charity, the soul  
Of all the rest : then wilt thou not be loath 585  
To leave this Paradise, but shalt possess  
A paradise within thee, happier far.  
Let us descend now therefore from this top  
Of speculation ; for the hour precise  
Exacts our parting hence ; and see the guards, 590  
By me encamp'd on yonder hill, expect  
Their motion, at whose front a flaming sword,  
In signal of remove, waves fiercely round ;  
We may no longer stay : go, waken Eve ;  
Her also I with gentle dreams have calm'd 595  
Portending good, and all her spi'rits compos'd  
To meek submission : thou at season fit  
Let her with thee partake what thou hast heard,  
Chiefly what may concern her faith to know,  
The great deliverance by her Seed to come 600  
(For by the woman's Seed) on all mankind :  
That ye may live, which will be many days,  
Both in one faith unanimous though sad,

With cause for evils past, yet much more cheer'd  
With meditation on the happy end. 605

He ended, and they both descend the hill;  
Descended, Adam to the bower where Eve  
Lay sleeping ran before, but found her wak'd;  
And thus with words not sad she him receiv'd.

Whence thou return'st, and whither went'st, I know;  
For God is also in sleep, and dreams advise, 611  
Which he hath sent propitious, some great good  
Presaging, since with sorrow and heart's distress  
Wearied I fell asleep: but now lead on,  
In me is no delay; with thee to go 615

Is to stay here; without thee here to stay  
Is to go hence unwilling; thou to me  
Art all things under Heav'n, all places thou,  
Who for my wilful crime art banish'd hence.  
This further consolation yet secure 620

carry hence; though all by me is lost,  
Such favor I unworthy am vouchsaf'd,  
By me the promis'd Seed shall all restore.

So spake our mother Eve, and Adam heard  
Well pleas'd, but answer'd not; for now too nigh 625  
Th' arch-angel stood, and from the other hill  
To their fix'd station, all in bright array  
The cherubim descended; on the ground  
Gliding meteorous, as evening mist  
Is'n from a river o'er the marsh glides, 632  
And gathers ground fast at the lab'rer's heel



Homeward returning. High in front ad  
The brandish'd sword of God before them  
Fierce as a comet; which with torrid heat,  
And vapor as the Lybian air adust, 637  
Began to parch that temp'rate clime; whereat  
In either hand the hast'ning angel caught  
Our ling'ring Parents, and to the eastern gate  
Led them direct, and down the cliff as fast  
To the subjected plain; then disappear'd. 640  
They looking back, all th' eastern side beheld  
Of Paradise, so late their happy seat,  
Wav'd over by that flaming brand, the gate  
With dreadful faces throng'd and fiery arms:  
The natural tears they dropt, but wip'd them soon  
The world was all before them, where to chuse 643  
Their place of rest, and Providence their guide:  
They hand in hand, with wand'ring steps and slow,  
Through Eden took their solitary way. 646

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END OF VOLUME SECOND.