

AY, whose strains were certainly of the first order, has in his Elegy given a full and perfect picture of his own poetry. Of his Pindaric Odes, though they do not lessen my opinion of his ability, my admiration has long been on the decline. The cause of this, if he has failed, seems to me to have been over anxiety, labour, and much study of the arts of writing, which, though they have produced a great number of splendid and valuable pieces, are too remote, and wanting a natural association of ideas, which, in Dryden's Ode, gives itself to have produced under one impression of mind, and at a single stroke. Next to the Elegy, his Odes are, in some respects, his best. In his noble Ode to the Palladium, which, either we consider the originality and the vigour, or the imagery, its sentiment, its expression, and its verification, has appeared to me one of the happiest and most beautiful of human poetry. To be thus successful again could not be expected from his almost constant adherence to allegory; it is the subject of great regret, even he seems sometimes to have taken the form for the soul. Why, then, Thomson continue to please, nay gather strength, and have his hands with the increasing bluffs of fancy, as he rolls down the tide of time? Why, because he does not study what he writes; he writes a true thought, but he neglects the expression, like a common but disgraced in rich apparel, but he neglects the fit down to defective of the science, that have from childhood devoted his exuberant fancy, and the exuberant feelings with which it is made his big heart expand. His language is not perhaps always the most elegant and polished; but, being sufficient to convey his ideas without vulgarizing them, though it may not add to their force of charming, can diminish little in it.—Alexander's Pleasures of Imagination is a most splendid and beautiful poem, especially when we recollect it was produced before the age of any four; and such persons of taste will, to see an instance, how little of criticism, and attention to the science of such a work, may compare brilliant performance with the dull and vapoury part of his life, by its

* A new edition, the 6th is now published, always.

always respectable, (except when the purplaster of disease, though very unequal, when the pulses the natural fire of her fancy, produces patches of folly or of passion, the latter of which, being first, the writer's labour, however great, (and great I have no doubt it was,) for a concrete of cloth. These four-lined epics, or, of alternate rhymes, are sung together, with a couplet at the end—and then, (though very rarely, complete, unmarred, dull, and lachrymose,) the aged is done. Johnson has said that the legitimate sonnet is ill adapted to our language, and has condemned even those of Milton. I must differ from him here. That it is very difficult, I confess; the repetition of rhymes will, without great command of language, produce embarrassment to the expression, and distance to the flow of the verse. To my eye, however, it is the general structure of Milton's sonnets, and a evidence of his style, he does not appear to have failed in their respect to the elevation of thought, and the majestic phraseology of phrasing. I ought to think his sonnets of a tone with his other poems. How noble are the 7th, the 8th, the 12th, the 14th, the 15th, the 16th, the 17th, the 18th, the 19th, the 20th, and above all the 21st and 22nd!—After these what shall I name? Among the other poets, a few of Dr. Johnson's, of Hazlendon, and perhaps one or two of Daniel and Dryden! (to the latter, the highly-plausible and perfect tone of Gray, and the best of T. Watson—) shall I mention the latter? Those of Mrs. Smith, always natural and pathetic, and full of fancy, and sometimes sublime, we above my friends? The objection to them by some variety. But grief will keep on the same thing. Yet few of these sonnets are legitimate. This is certainly a defect, but only a functional one, as it affects their form alone. But it genius like hers may be excused from these rules, it is to be endured that poets, in whose productions the outward resemblance (very flight as it is) is the only claim they have to the title, should be exempt from the laws that mark their shape?

Miss Seaward, the superiority of whose imagination over her judgement, every person of understanding must be convinced of, and heretofore may not be unwilling to allow; always poetical, in the latter part of his life, by its

Dean and Chapter of Rochester, to the vicarage of Hoo, near that city. He also obtained, a short time before his death, the rectory of Gravesend in the same county. In this latter place, he spent his last days.—That when the bowdler herself with critical fancies, when the rans in "her cooler of criticism" fail to follow after much of the private force, we lament the deprivation of the best talents. The more equally flowing of Mrs. Barbauld, elegant and easy, gave a more perfect touch to the justness, if they be not equal to the rapidity, the fact. And, yet I close the list, not ever upon those select female names, with which Mrs. S. was chosen to staff her list, and that her contemporaries. But for me to say pen, I prefer to myself from that point of view, of which I fear that I stand in too much need. My own poetry may be too far above to those, except only that I have occasionally imitated others. Alas! I fear they may!—There was, I suppose, a time of that youth, which is never fled, when, dazzled by the number of foreign examples, and desiring the simplicity of my childhood was destroyed, and in the means of which the sympathy of my heart bore testimony, I assumed my thoughts, and contrived the artifice of my soul, in search of false beauties, and the innumerable fancies of affection. But hope flatters me the time is past, and that I shall yet live to complete the design with which the direction of my infancy filled my language, heart, and which, however decried by disappointment, repeated by envy and malice, and overclouded by grief, still lie dormant over the waves of opposition, and direct the tenor of my thoughts, and my actions.

PIERS DE GRANDISON.

Mr. CARRAM.

Jan. 3.

Following short sketch of the life of Bishop Gunning. I would request its attention to your useful Miscellany, as it may afford some assistance to the Editors of the Biographia Britannica, towards perfecting their life of that worthy Prelate. The particulars appear to have been taken from a manuscript history of the House of Trar. Thomas Gunning had issue Peter, two other sons, and four daughters. Peter received a clerical education; and, taking orders, was presented, by the

Dean and Chapter of Rochester, to the vicarage of Hoo, near that city. He also obtained, a short time before his death, the rectory of Gravesend in the same county. In this latter place, he spent his last days.—That when the bowdler herself with critical fancies, when the rans in "her cooler of criticism" fail to follow after much of the private force, we lament the deprivation of the best talents. The more equally flowing of Mrs. Barbauld, elegant and easy, gave a more perfect touch to the justness, if they be not equal to the rapidity, the fact. And, yet I close the list, not ever upon those select female names, with which Mrs. S. was chosen to staff her list, and that her contemporaries. But for me to say pen, I prefer to myself from that point of view, of which I fear that I stand in too much need. My own poetry may be too far above to those, except only that I have occasionally imitated others. Alas! I fear they may!—There was, I suppose, a time of that youth, which is never fled, when, dazzled by the number of foreign examples, and desiring the simplicity of my childhood was destroyed, and in the means of which the sympathy of my heart bore testimony, I assumed my thoughts, and contrived the artifice of my soul, in search of false beauties, and the innumerable fancies of affection. But hope flatters me the time is past, and that I shall yet live to complete the design with which the direction of my infancy filled my language, heart, and which, however decried by disappointment, repeated by envy and malice, and overclouded by grief, still lie dormant over the waves of opposition, and direct the tenor of my thoughts, and my actions.

The fact, fixed to Mr. Gunning's will is quarterly of two cents; 2, 4, 3, 6, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100, 105, 110, 115, 120, 125, 130, 135, 140, 145, 150, 155, 160, 165, 170, 175, 180, 185, 190, 195, 200, 205, 210, 215, 220, 225, 230, 235, 240, 245, 250, 255, 260, 265, 270, 275, 280, 285, 290, 295, 300, 305, 310, 315, 320, 325, 330, 335, 340, 345, 350, 355, 360, 365, 370, 375, 380, 385, 390, 395, 400, 405, 410, 415, 420, 425, 430, 435, 440, 445, 450, 455, 460, 465, 470, 475, 480, 485, 490, 495, 500, 505, 510, 515, 520, 525, 530, 535, 540, 545, 550, 555, 560, 565, 570, 575, 580, 585, 590, 595, 600, 605, 610, 615, 620, 625, 630, 635, 640, 645, 650, 655, 660, 665, 670, 675, 680, 685, 690, 695, 700, 705, 710, 715, 720, 725, 730, 735, 740, 745, 750, 755, 760, 765, 770, 775, 780, 785, 790, 795, 800, 805, 810, 815, 820, 825, 830, 835, 840, 845, 850, 855, 860, 865, 870, 875, 880, 885, 890, 895, 900, 905, 910, 915, 920, 925, 930, 935, 940, 945, 950, 955, 960, 965, 970, 975, 980, 985, 990, 995, 1000, 1005, 1010, 1015, 1020, 1025, 1030, 1035, 1040, 1045, 1050, 1055, 1060, 1065, 1070, 1075, 1080, 1085, 1090, 1095, 1100, 1105, 1110, 1115, 1120, 1125, 1130, 1135, 1140, 1145, 1150, 1155, 1160, 1165, 1170, 1175, 1180, 1185, 1190, 1195, 1200, 1205, 1210, 1215, 1220, 1225, 1230, 1235, 1240, 1245, 1250, 1255, 1260, 1265, 1270, 1275, 1280, 1285, 1290, 1295, 1300, 1305, 1310, 1315, 1320, 1325, 1330, 1335, 1340, 1345, 1350, 1355, 1360, 1365, 1370, 1375, 1380, 1385, 1390, 1395, 1400, 1405, 1410, 1415, 1420, 1425, 1430, 1435, 1440, 1445, 1450, 1455, 1460, 1465, 1470, 1475, 1480, 1485, 1490, 1495, 1500, 1505, 1510, 1515, 1520, 1525, 1530, 1535, 1540, 1545, 1550, 1555, 1560, 1565, 1570, 1575, 1580, 1585, 1590, 1595, 1600, 1605, 1610, 1615, 1620, 1625, 1630, 1635, 1640, 1645, 1650, 1655, 1660, 1665, 1670, 1675, 1680, 1685, 1690, 1695, 1700, 1705, 1710, 1715, 1720, 1725, 1730, 1735, 1740, 1745, 1750, 1755, 1760, 1765, 1770, 1775, 1780, 1785, 1790, 1795, 1800, 1805, 1810, 1815, 1820, 1825, 1830, 1835, 1840, 1845, 1850, 1855, 1860, 1865, 1870, 1875, 1880, 1885, 1890, 1895, 1900, 1905, 1910, 1915, 1920, 1925, 1930, 1935, 1940, 1945, 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015, 2020, 2025, 2030, 2035, 2040, 2045, 2050, 2055, 2060, 2065, 2070, 2075, 2080, 2085, 2090, 2095, 2100, 2105, 2110, 2115, 2120, 2125, 2130, 2135, 2140, 2145, 2150, 2155, 2160, 2165, 2170, 2175, 2180, 2185, 2190, 2195, 2200, 2205, 2210, 2215, 2220, 2225, 2230, 2235, 2240, 2245, 2250, 2255, 2260, 2265, 2270, 2275, 2280, 2285, 2290, 2295, 2300, 2305, 2310, 2315, 2320, 2325, 2330, 2335, 2340, 2345, 2350, 2355, 2360, 2365, 2370, 2375, 2380, 2385, 2390, 2395, 2400, 2405, 2410, 2415, 2420, 2425, 2430, 2435, 2440, 2445, 2450, 2455, 2460, 2465, 2470, 2475, 2480, 2485, 2490, 2495, 2500, 2505, 2510, 2515, 2520, 2525, 2530, 2535, 2540, 2545, 2550, 2555, 2560, 2565, 2570, 2575, 2580, 2585, 2590, 2595, 2600, 2605, 2610, 2615, 2620, 2625, 2630, 2635, 2640, 2645, 2650, 2655, 2660, 2665, 2670, 2675, 2680, 2685, 2690, 2695, 2700, 2705, 2710, 2715, 2720, 2725, 2730, 2735, 2740, 2745, 2750, 2755, 2760, 2765, 2770, 2775, 2780, 2785, 2790, 2795, 2800, 2805, 2810, 2815, 2820, 2825, 2830, 2835, 2840, 2845, 2850, 2855, 2860, 2865, 2870, 2875, 2880, 2885, 2890, 2895, 2900, 2905, 2910, 2915, 2920, 2925, 2930, 2935, 2940, 2945, 2950, 2955, 2960, 2965, 2970, 2975, 2980, 2985, 2990, 2995, 3000, 3005, 3010, 3015, 3020, 3025, 3030, 3035, 3040, 3045, 3050, 3055, 3060, 3065, 3070, 3075, 3080, 3085, 3090, 3095, 3100, 3105, 3110, 3115, 3120, 3125, 3130, 3135, 3140, 3145, 3150, 3155, 3160, 3165, 3170, 3175, 3180, 3185, 3190, 3195, 3200, 3205, 3210, 3215, 3220, 3225, 3230, 3235, 3240, 3245, 3250, 3255, 3260, 3265, 3270, 3275, 3280, 3285, 3290, 3295, 3300, 3305, 3310, 3315, 3320, 3325, 3330, 3335, 3340, 3345, 3350, 3355, 3360, 3365, 3370, 3375, 3380, 3385, 3390, 3395, 3400, 3405, 3410, 3415, 3420, 3425, 3430, 3435, 3440, 3445, 3450, 3455, 3460, 3465, 3470, 3475, 3480, 3485, 3490, 3495, 3500, 3505, 3510, 3515, 3520, 3525, 3530, 3535, 3540, 3545, 3550, 3555, 3560, 3565, 3570, 3575, 3580, 3585, 3590, 3595, 3600, 3605, 3610, 3615, 3620, 3625, 3630, 3635, 3640, 3645, 3650, 3655, 3660, 3665, 3670, 3675, 3680, 3685, 3690, 3695, 3700, 3705, 3710, 3715, 3720, 3725, 3730, 3735, 3740, 3745, 3750, 3755, 3760, 3765, 3770, 3775, 3780, 3785, 3790, 3795, 3800, 3805, 3810, 3815, 3820, 3825, 3830, 3835, 3840, 3845, 3850, 3855, 3860, 3865, 3870, 3875, 3880, 3885, 3890, 3895, 3900, 3905, 3910, 3915, 3920, 3925, 3930, 3935, 3940, 3945, 3950, 3955, 3960, 3965, 3970, 3975, 3980, 3985, 3990, 3995, 4000, 4005, 4010, 4015, 4020, 4025, 4030, 4035, 4040, 4045, 4050, 4055, 4060, 4065, 4070, 4075, 4080, 4085, 4090, 4095, 4100, 4105, 4110, 4115, 4120, 4125, 4130, 4135, 4140, 4145, 4150, 4155, 4160, 4165, 4170, 4175, 4180, 4185, 4190, 4195, 4200, 4205, 4210, 4215, 4220, 4225, 4230, 4235, 4240, 4245, 4250, 4255, 4260, 4265, 4270, 4275, 4280, 4285, 4290, 4295, 4300, 4305, 4310, 4315, 4320, 4325, 4330, 4335, 4340, 4345, 4350, 4355, 4360, 4365, 4370, 4375, 4380, 4385, 4390, 4395, 4400, 4405, 4410, 4415, 4420, 4425, 4430, 4435, 4440, 4445, 4450, 4455, 4460, 4465, 4470, 4475, 4480, 4485, 4490, 4495, 4500, 4505, 4510, 4515, 4520, 4525, 4530, 4535, 4540, 4545, 4550, 4555, 4560, 4565, 4570, 4575, 4580, 4585, 4590, 4595, 4600, 4605, 4610, 4615, 4620, 4625, 4630, 4635, 4640, 4645, 4650, 4655, 4660, 4665, 4670, 4675, 4680, 4685, 4690, 4695, 4700, 4705, 4710, 4715, 4720, 4725, 4730, 4735, 4740, 4745, 4750, 4755, 4760, 4765, 4770, 4775, 4780, 4785, 4790, 4795, 4800, 4805, 4810, 4815, 4820, 4825, 4830, 4835, 4840, 4845, 4850, 4855, 4860, 4865, 4870, 4875, 4880, 4885, 4890, 4895, 4900, 4905, 4910, 4915, 4920, 4925, 4930, 4935, 4940, 4945, 4950, 4955, 4960, 4965, 4970, 4975, 4980, 4985, 4990, 4995, 5000, 5005, 5010, 5015, 5020, 5025, 5030, 5035, 5040, 5045, 5050, 5055, 5060, 5065, 5070, 5075, 5080, 5085, 5090, 5095, 5100, 5105, 5110, 5115, 5120, 5125, 5130, 5135, 5140, 5145, 5150, 5155, 5160, 5165, 5170, 5175, 5180, 5185, 5190, 5195, 5200, 5205, 5210, 5215, 5220, 5225, 5230, 5235, 5240, 5245, 5250, 5255, 5260, 5265, 5270, 5275, 5280, 5285, 5290, 5295, 5300, 5305, 5310, 5315, 5320, 5325, 5330, 5335, 5340, 5345, 5350, 5355, 5360, 5365, 5370, 5375, 5380, 5385, 5390, 5395, 5400, 5405, 5410, 5415, 5420, 5425, 5430, 5435, 5440, 5445, 5450, 5455, 5460, 5465, 5470, 5475, 5480, 5485, 5490, 5495, 5500, 5505, 5510, 5515, 5520, 5525, 5530, 5535, 5540, 5545, 5550, 5555, 5560, 5565, 5570, 5575, 5580, 5585, 5590, 5595, 5600, 5605, 5610, 5615, 5620, 5625, 5630, 5635, 5640, 5645, 5650, 5655, 5660, 5665, 5670, 5675, 5680, 5685, 5690, 5695, 5700, 5705, 5710, 5715, 5720, 5725, 5730, 5735, 5740, 5745, 5750, 5755, 5760, 5765, 5770, 5775, 5780, 5785, 5790, 5795, 5800, 5805, 5810, 5815, 5820, 5825, 5830, 5835, 5840, 5845, 5850, 5855, 5860, 5865, 5870, 5875, 5880, 5885, 5890, 5895, 5900, 5905, 5910, 5915, 5920, 5925, 5930, 5935, 5940, 5945, 5950, 5955, 5960, 5965, 5970, 5975, 5980, 5985, 5990, 5995, 6000, 6005, 6010, 6015, 6020, 6025, 6030, 6035, 6040, 6045, 6050, 6055, 6060, 6065, 6070, 6075, 6080, 6085, 6090, 6095, 6100, 6105, 6110, 6115, 6120, 6125, 6130, 6135, 6140, 6145, 6150, 6155, 6160, 6165, 6170, 6175, 6180, 6185, 6190, 6195, 6200, 6205, 6210, 6215, 6220, 6225, 6230, 6235, 6240, 6245, 6250, 6255, 6260, 6265, 6270, 6275, 6280, 6285, 6290, 6295, 6300, 6305, 6310, 6315, 6320, 6325, 6330, 6335, 6340, 6345, 6350, 6355, 6360, 6365, 6370, 6375, 6380, 6385, 6390, 6395, 6400, 6405, 6410, 6415, 6420, 6425, 6430, 6435, 6440, 6445, 6450, 6455, 6460, 6465, 6470, 6475, 6480, 6485, 6490, 6495, 6500, 6505, 6510, 6515, 6520, 6525, 6530, 6535, 6540, 6545, 6550, 6555, 6560, 6565, 6570, 6575, 6580, 6585, 6590, 6595, 6600, 6605, 6610, 6615, 6620, 6625, 6630, 6635, 6640, 6645, 6650, 6655, 6660, 6665, 6670, 6675, 6680, 6685, 6690, 6695, 6700, 6705, 6710, 6715, 6720, 6725, 6730, 6735, 6740, 6745, 6750, 6755, 6760, 6765, 6770, 6775, 6780, 6785, 6790, 6795, 6800, 6805, 6810, 6815, 6820, 6825, 6830, 6835, 6840, 6845, 6850, 6855, 6860, 6865, 6870, 6875, 6880, 6885, 6890, 6895, 6900, 6905, 6910, 6915, 6920, 6925, 6930, 6935, 6940, 6945, 6950, 6955, 6960, 6965, 6970, 6975, 6980, 6985, 6990, 6995, 7000, 7005, 7010, 7015, 7020, 7025, 7030, 7035, 7040, 7045, 7050, 7055, 7060, 7065, 7070, 7075, 7080, 7085, 7090, 7095, 7100, 7105, 7110, 7115, 7120, 7125, 7130, 7135, 7140, 7145, 7150, 7155, 7160, 7165, 7170, 7175, 7180, 7185, 7190, 7195, 7200, 7205, 7210, 7215, 7220, 7225, 7230, 7235, 7240, 7245, 7250, 7255, 7260, 7265, 7270, 7275, 7280, 7285, 7290, 7295, 7300, 7305, 7310, 7315, 7320, 7325, 7330, 7335, 7340, 7345, 7350, 7355, 7360, 7365, 7370, 7375, 7380, 7385, 7390, 7395, 7400, 7405, 7410, 7415, 7420, 7425, 7430, 7435, 7440, 7445, 7450, 7455, 7460, 7465, 7470, 7475, 7480, 7485, 7490, 7495, 7500, 7505, 7510, 7515, 7520, 7525, 7530, 7535, 7540, 7545, 7550, 7555, 7560, 7565, 7570, 7575, 7580, 7585, 7590, 7595, 7600, 7605, 7610, 7615, 7620, 7625, 7630, 7635, 7640, 7645, 7650, 7655, 7660, 7665, 7670, 7675, 7680, 7685, 7690, 7695, 7700, 7705, 7710, 7715, 7720, 7725, 7730, 7735, 7740, 7745, 7750, 7755, 7760, 7765, 7770, 7775, 7780, 7785, 7790, 7795, 7800, 7805, 7810, 7815, 7820, 7825, 7830, 7835, 7840, 7845, 7850, 7855, 7860, 7865, 7870, 7875, 7880, 7885, 7890, 7895, 7900, 7905, 7910, 7915, 7920, 7925, 7930, 7935, 7940, 7945, 7950, 7955, 7960, 7965, 7970, 7975, 7980, 7985, 7990, 7995, 8000, 8005, 8010, 8015, 8020, 8025, 8030, 8035, 8040, 8045, 8050, 8055, 8060, 8065, 8070, 8075, 8080, 8085, 8090, 8095, 8100, 8105, 8110, 8115, 8120, 8125, 8130, 8135, 8140, 8145, 8150, 8155, 8160, 8165, 8170, 8175, 8180, 8185, 8190, 8195, 8200, 8205, 8210, 8215, 8220, 8225, 8230, 8235, 8240, 8245, 8250, 8255, 8260, 8265, 8270, 8275, 8280, 8285, 8290, 8295, 8300, 8305, 8310, 8315, 8320, 8325, 8330, 8335, 8340, 8345, 8350, 8355, 8360, 8365, 8370, 8375, 8380, 8385, 8390