

81 *Muse*. 'Poet.' So in Spenser, Shakespeare, Milton, Dryden, &c. Cf. Shakespeare, *Sonnet* 21—

"So is it not with me as with that muse,
Stirred by a painted beauty to his verse."

84 *That teach*. Strict grammar would require the singular.

Moralist. Used loosely for one who learns or practices morals.

85 It is a moot point, which it is impossible to determine, whether *to dumb forgetfulness a prey* is in apposition to 'who,' or to 'being.' The first interpretation is the simplest in construction; the second, in meaning. In the first case the question is really contained in the appositional clause, 'Who being a prey to forgetfulness resigned life' = 'Who in resigning life ever thought he would be forgotten.' In the second case the meaning will be, 'Who ever resigned this life to oblivion,' = 'Who ever was content to die and be forgotten.'

86 Cf. *Adriani morientis ad animam*—

"Animula vagula blandula,
Hospes, comesque corporis,
Quae nunc abibis in loca?
Pallidula, rigida, nudula,
Nec, ut soles, dabis joca."

87 Cf. Lucretius, "luminis oras."

89 Compare the 'uncouth rhimes' of Drayton—

"It is some comfort to a wretch to die
(If there be comfort in the way of death),
To have some friend or kind alliance by,
To be officious at the parting breath."

90 *Pious drops*. The 'piae lacrimae' of Ovid. 'Tears of affection.'

92 Chaucer, *Reve's Prologue*, 3880, has

"Yet in oure aissenen cold is fyr yreken (raked)."

The similarity is in the words, not the sense. The Reve says that even in old age the passions of youth are warm. Gray means even after death the yearning for affection still lives.

Gray himself quotes Petrarch, *Sonnets*—

"Ch' i veggio nel pensier, dolce mio fuoco,
Fredda una lingua e due begli occhi chiusi,
Rimaner doppo noi pien di faville."

93 *For thee*. 'As for thee.'

95 *Chance*. Cf. adverbial use of 'fors.'

96 *Kindred spirit*. One like the poet, 'mindful of the un-honour'd dead.'

97 *Swain*. First meaning, 'a boy;' then 'a servant;' lastly, in pastoral poetry, used for 'a lover.'