

The idea is that when the wheels of a carriage are subjected to too great friction they either refuse to turn, or else catch fire from the overheating of the axle. So in society, this internal struggle and ferment (ll. 344-6) must result in a breakdown in the machinery of government or in political disturbances. *The Traveller* was written about the time of the Wilkes' agitations in Britain.

351. Fictitious. Artificial.

357. noble stems. The heads of noble families.

359. sink, A drain to carry off impure water. By speaking of England as a *sink* he suggests that her ideals have become base and impure.

level avarice. Greed for money among all classes of people.

369. the changeful clime. Of Britain.

370. Just as plants are pruned to make them better and stronger, so if the freedom of the British people is repressed when it tends to go to extremes, it will bring greater security.

373-6. He means to say that if any class of people is to be allowed too great privileges it will affect the rights of others.

381-8. The lines are subordinate, grammatically, to line 389.

381-2. These and the following lines express Goldsmith's opinion of the Whig government then in power.

383. a factious band. A group of politicians seeking to further their personal interests by agitation and dissension.

385. There was nothing to restrain the judge from drawing up new laws for punishment of offences (penal statutes).

wanted. Without restraint.

387-8. He means to say that money was extorted from people in the colonies, such as India, to corrupt the electors in Great Britain.

to purchase slaves. To bribe the voters, to make them subservient.

391-2. Partly from motives of patriotism, partly from fear of the evils threatening my country, I appeal to the sovereign to protect it against these petty political tyrants.

393. baleful. Evil, pernicious.

395. The sovereign is here regarded as the fountain-head or source of honour.

393. Gave wealth to sway. Gave wealth the power to sway.