

May show her scheme throughout the whole, is just  
In all creation's list the last or first.

What time man's long tailed ancestors gave o'er  
Their apish pranks, and lived in trees no more,  
But walked on two feet upright on the ground,  
Then for the tail no further use was found.  
It had among the branches served their turn,  
Assisting them to cross a stream or bourn ;  
But on the sward they found it in the way,  
Not having means of stowing it away.  
They might of course have held it o'er the arm,  
Or coiled it round the neck to keep them warm ;  
But as they needed both hands in the chase,  
'Twould still I fear have been found out of place ;  
And in hot haste, while hunting for their food,  
Would have got loose and draggled in the mud.  
'Tis true, like modern princess with her train,  
A youngster could have borne it—all in vain—  
The stronger biped being more swift of foot,  
The manikin would fail in the pursuit ;  
We therefore find in after generations,  
This ornament was dropped among the fashions.

Above 'tis said that nature's scheme is just,  
A statement we shall here make clear I trust ;  
For if our theorists are to be believed,  
Nor by much wit and learning self deceived ;  
When man's post-pendent ornament was lost,  
At time he ceased to mount the trees and roost,  
He was, with other gifts forthwith endowed,  
That much distinguished him among the crowd ;  
In short, the loss was balanced by this gain—  
No other than enlargement of the brain.

As all our ancestors their tails cast loose,  
When it was found they were no further use,  
So reason teaches in our present case,  
To look for further changes to take place,  
In the endowments of the race to-day—  
We now proceed to indicate the way.

Grant your attention and observe the change  
That time has worked throughout the earth's wide range ;  
Mark well those modern giants begot of steam,  
The broad earth racing like Cyclopean team ;  
Or that iron iron-ribbed leviathan that ploughs the deep,  
In calm, or thorough storm, o'er waves as hill sides steep.  
Then nearer home with things more common place,  
What ease of locomotion is the case ;