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PARAPHRASE OF PSALM CIV.

My soul, adore the Lord of night—
With uncreated glory crown'd,
And clad in royalty of light,
He draws the curtain'd heavens around ;
Dark waters his pavilion form—
Clouds are his car, his wheels the storm.

Light'ning before Him, and behind
Thunder rebounding to and fro—
He walks upon the winged wind,
And reins the blast, or lets it go :
This goodly globe his wisdom plann'd—
He fix'd the bounds of sea and land.

When o'er a guilty world, of old,
He summon'd the avenging main,
At his rebuke the billows roll'd
Back to their parent-gulf again ;
The mountains rais'd their joyful heads,
Like new creations, from their beds.

Thenceforth the self-revolving tide
Its daily fall and flow maintains :
Through winding vales fresh fountains glide,
Leap from the hills, or course the plains ;
There thirsty cattle through the brink,
And the wild asses bend to drink.

Fed by the currents, fruitful groves
Expand their leaves, their fragrance fling,
Where the cool breeze at noon-tide roves,
And birds among the branches sing ;
Soft fall the showers when day declines,
And sweet the peaceful rainbow shines.

Grass through the meadows, rich with flowers,
God's bounty spreads for herds and flocks :
On Lebanon his cedar towers,
The wild goats bound upon his rocks ;
Fowls in his forests build their nests—
The stor' amid the pine-tree rests.

To strengthen man, condemn'd to toil,
He fills with grain the golden ear ;
Bids the ripe olive melt with oil,
And swells the grape man's heart to cheer ;
The moon her tide of changing knows,
Her orb with lustre ebbs and flows.

The sun goes down, the stars come out—
He maketh darkness, and 'tis night :
Then roam the beasts of prey about,
The desert rings with chase and fight :
The lion, and the lion's brood,
Look up—and God provides them food.

Morn dawns far east—ere long the sun
Warms the glad nations with his beams ;

Day, in their dens, the spoilers shun,
And night returns to them in dreams :
Man from his couch to labour goes,
Till evening brings again repose.

How manifold thy works, O Lord,
In wisdom, power, and goodness wrought !
The earth is with thy riches stored,
And ocean with thy wonders fraught :
Unfathom'd caves beneath the deep
For Thee their hidden treasures keep.

There go the ships, with sails unfurl'd,
By Thee directed on their way ;
There, in his own mysterious world,
Leviathan delights to play ;
And tribes that range immensity,
Unknown to man, are known to Thee.

By Thee alone the living live—
Hide but thy face, their comforts fly ;
They gather what thy seasons give—
Take Thou away their breath, they die ;
Send forth thy Spirit from above,
And all is life again and love.

Joy in his works Jehovah takes,
Yet to destruction they return ;
He looks upon the earth, it quakes—
Touches the mountains, and they burn—
Thou, God, for ever art the same :
I AM is thy unchanging name.

SOUTH SEA BUBBLE.

In 1711, the ninth year of Queen Anne's reign, a charter of incorporation was granted to a company trading to the South Seas : and the South Sea company's affairs appeared so prosperous, that, in 1718, King George I. being chosen governor, and a bill enabling him to accept the office having passed both houses, on the 3d of February, his majesty, in person, attended the house of lords, and gave the royal assent to the act. A brief history of the company's subsequent progress is interesting at any time, and more especially at a period when excess of speculation may endanger private happiness, and disturb the public welfare.

On the 27th of January, 1719, the South Sea company proposed a scheme to parliament for paying off the national debt, by taking into its funds all the debt which the nation had incurred before the year 1716, whether redeemable or irredeemable, amounting in the whole to the sum of £31,664,551 *ls.* 1½*d.* For this the company undertook to pay to the use of the public the sum of £4,156,306 ; besides four and a half years' purchase for all the annuities that should be subscribed into its fund, and which, if all subscribed, would have amounted to the sum of £5,567,503 ; amounting, with the above-mentioned sum, to £7,723,809 ; in case all the annuities were not subscribed, the company agreed to pay one per cent. for such unsubscribed annuities.