

essay on Dryden: "He certainly gave even a liberal interpretation to Molière's rule of taking his own property when he found it, though he sometimes blundered awkwardly about what was properly *his*; but in literature it should be remembered *a thing always becomes his at last who says it best, and that makes it his own*. . . . For example, Waller calls the Duke of York's flag

"His dreadful streamer, like a comet's hair."

And this, I believe, is the first application of the celestial portent to this particular comparison. Yet Milton's 'imperial ensign' waves defiant behind his impregnable lines; and even Campbell flaunts his 'meteor flag' in Waller's face. Gray's *Bard* might be sent to the lock-up, but even he would find bail.

'C'est imiter quelqu'un que de planter des choux.'

57 Gray wisely substituted Hampden and Cromwell for Brutus and Julius of the first draft.

Hampden refused the payment of ship-money in 1637.—See Bright, ii. 630.

[What should you gather from this stanza as to Gray's political opinions? Is he Cavalier or Roundhead, Tory or Whig?]

61-64 [Illustrate by examples each line.]

63 From Tickell—

"To scatter blessings o'er the British land."

65 ['He forbad to go' is not English. Can you justify the construction here?]

68 From Shakespeare, *Henry V.*; act iii. scene 3—

"The gates of mercy shall be all shut up."

69 *Conscious truth*. The truth of which they are conscious, which they know, and fain would testify.

71 The age of Queen Anne was the age of patronage and fulsome dedication.—See Macaulay's *Essay on Boswell's Life of Johnson*. Thus Pope is constantly boasting that he is a unique exception to the prevailing vice, and satirizing men like Bufo (Halifax),

"I'd with soft dedication all day long."

73 From Drummond, *Sonnet* 49—

"Far from the madding worldling's hoarse discords."

Shakespeare has "madding Dido," and Milton "madding wheels." The construction is, 'The wishes of them who were far,' &c.

77 *Yet*. "Humble as they are, and wanting stately tombs."

78 *Still*. "Notwithstanding"; but the position of the word is awkward.

[79 *Deck'd*. 'Protect.' Is this a just rhyme?]

Rhimes. So spelt by Gray. 'Rime' is correct (Old English for number). 'Rhyme' is due to the false derivation from Greek *ῥυθμός*.