

58. The little tyrant of his fields. The landowner who attempted to tyrannize over him.

60. guiltless of his country's blood. The general opinion held of Cromwell in the eighteenth century was that he was a cruel tyrant who was "guilty of his country's blood." The village Cromwell is guiltless because he has had no opportunity to act the part of a real Cromwell.

61. senates. Assemblies.

64. In the gratitude of the nation they saw the results of their own efforts.

65-72. If their humble lot prevented the development of their best qualities, it also limited their opportunity for doing wrong. It prevented them from becoming tyrannical, from telling what is false, from having to conceal their feelings of shame, and from accepting the flattery which poets too often bestow upon their proud and wealthy patrons.

70. ingenuous. Without artifice, frank, open-hearted.

73. This line is adjectival to the pronoun *they* implied in *their*.
madding. Maddening, distracting.

76. tenour. Course.

78. still. Always, in all cases.

81. unlettered. Uneducated.

87. the warm precincts of the cheerful day. The warm bright earth.

precincts. Limits, boundaries.

88. nor cast. Without casting.

90. pious drops. Tears which are due to the dying (Lat. *pious*, dutiful). It soothes the dying to know that some-one is weeping for their loss.

91. Even the dead seem to cry out for remembrance.

93. thee. The poet is addressing himself.

94. artless. Simple, without deceit.

97. Haply. Perhaps. Swain. Country man, rustic.

105. smiling. Modifies *he*, l. 106.

108. Or . . . or. Either . . . or, a poetical form.

123. Science. Knowledge, in the wide sense of the word.