

which some have conjectured as being the nearest thing to the sweet-briar. But, as Mark Pattison points out in his excellent book on Milton (Eng. Men of Letters series), the city-bred Milton ignored such details.

l. 50. The last thin wreaths of dark mist that linger after sunrise are, like a routed army, scattered by 'the cock's shrill clarion.'

l. 53. **listening** (*list'ning*, edition 1645) is two syllables. So **slumbering** in the next line.

l. 54. With this description of the morn contrast that in the *Penseroso*, ll. 122 sq.

**Cheerly**, blithely and with good heart. 'Cheerly, good Adam,' As You Like It, ii. 6. 19.

l. 55. **hoar**, with early unmelted rime.

l. 58. The *Penseroso* (l. 65) 'walks unseen,' and on college lawns retired, not on 'hillocks.'

ll. 59-63. Note the magnificent sound of these lines. Milton once or twice in these two poems seems to quit the tone of gracious fantasy which he has laid down for them, and to 'somewhat loudly sweep the string.' But the fanciful word 'liveries' brings him back again.

l. 59. **against**: the cheerful man walks facing the east, with the sun full in his eyes.

l. 60. Like a king holding a court. See *Penseroso* 37, 'keep thy wonted state.' 'The clouds' in l. 62 are his courtiers in full dress.

l. 62. **dight**, adorned. See Glossary.

l. 67. **tale** is probably 'story,' not 'the number of his flock.' If it be literally said that telling stories is a strange occupation for day-break, there is the equally literal reply that 'under the hawthorn' suggests story-telling much more than it does the 'telling' or counting of flocks.

l. 69. The 'cye' is the mind's eye. The cheerful man is figured, not as looking at different points of a single scene, but as imagining scene after scene. Remember once more that 'The scenery is ideal and eclectic.' At any rate, 'mountains' shews that the Horton country is not thought of exclusively.

l. 70. **landskip**. See Glossary.

l. 71. **Russet lawns**: heath or other waste-lands between woods. 'Russet' is the rusty brown of the bracken or ling. See Glossary for 'lawns.'

l. 74. **labouring**: charged with rain, and toiling onwards like swimmers in the sky. Goldsmith, *Deserted Village*, 191:—

'Though round its breast the rolling clouds are spread,  
Eternal sunshine settles on its head.'