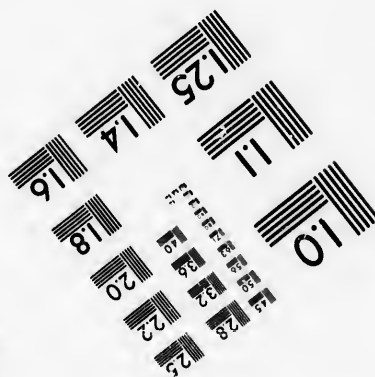
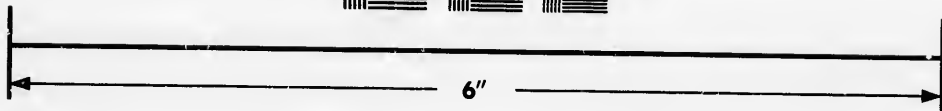
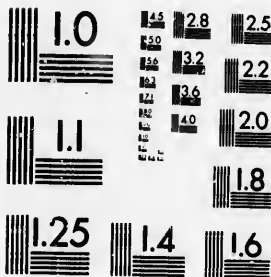


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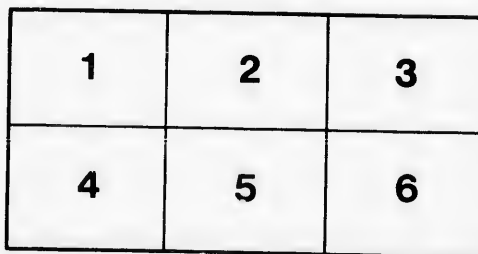
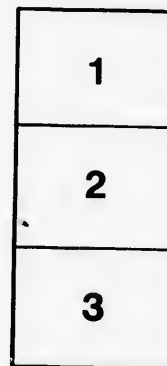
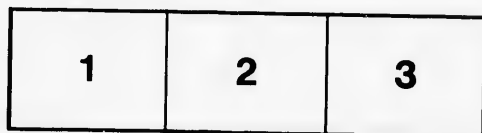
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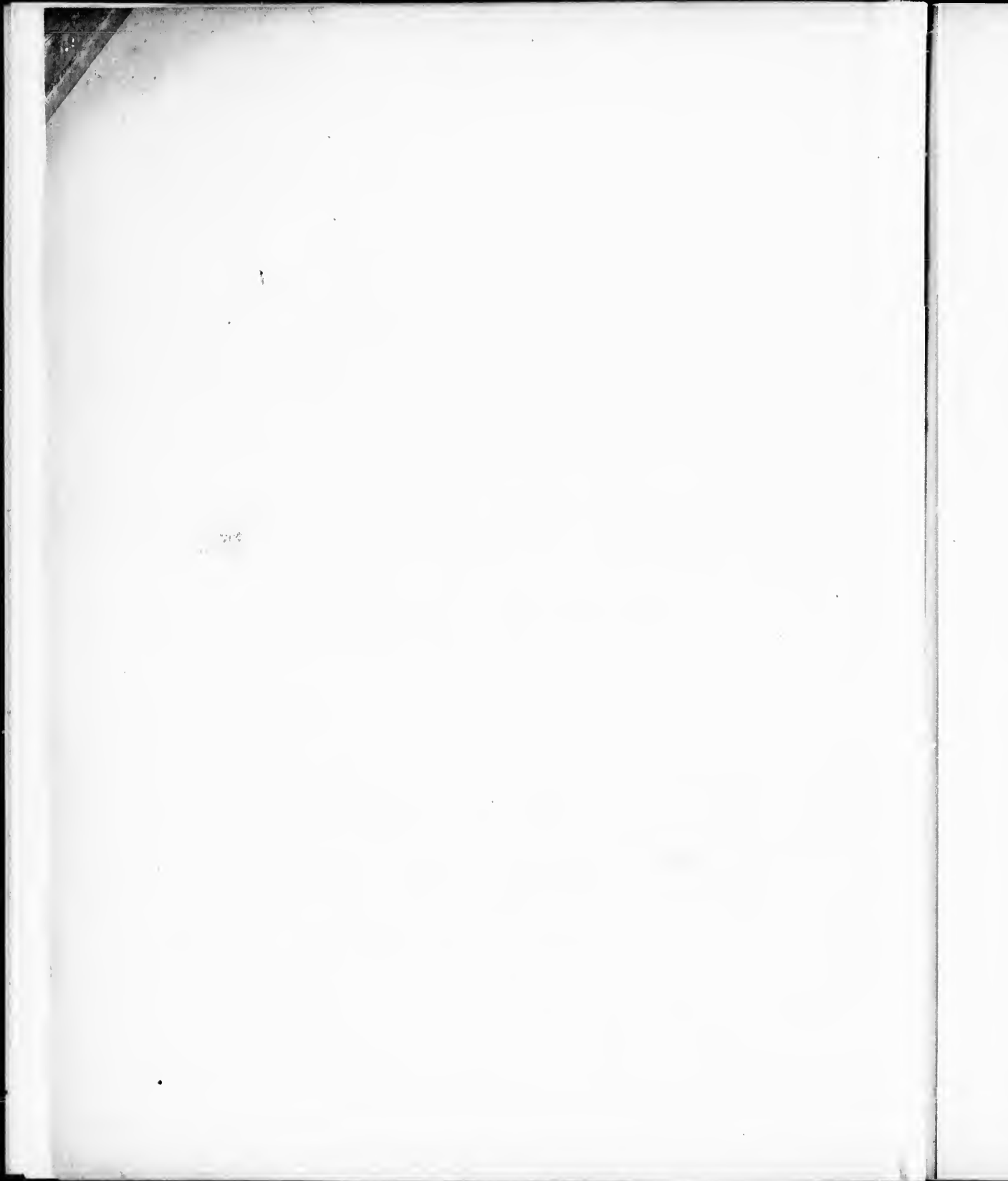
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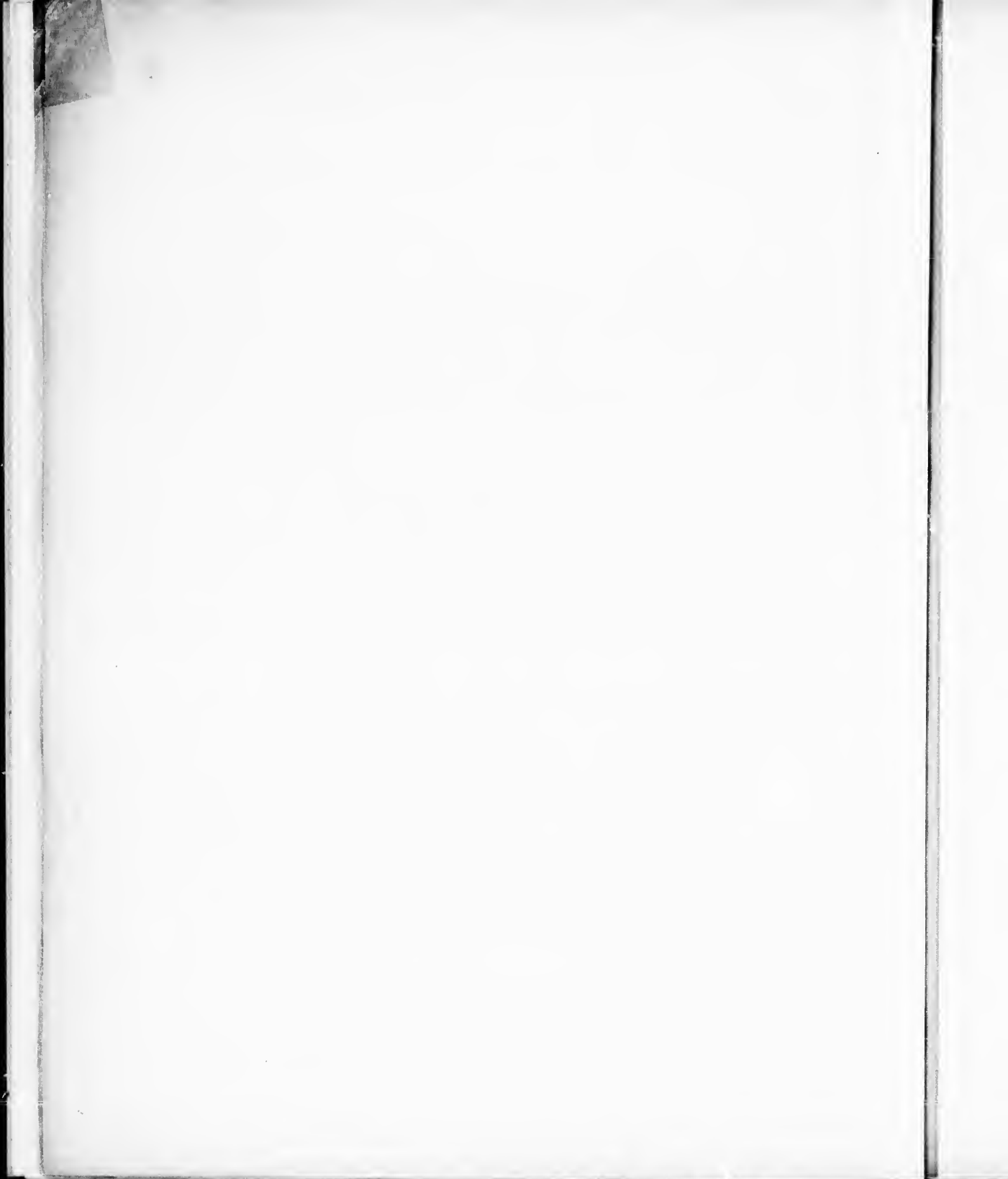
A POEM:

TO WHICH ARE SUBJOINED A FEW ELUCIDATING NOTES

*By* STEPHEN DICKSON *Esqr.*

QUEBEC  
PRINTED BY JOHN NEILSON, NO 3 MOUNTAIN STREET

1799



## THE

*UNION of TASTE and SCIENCE.*

**W**HEN Nature first at Heaven's almighty word  
 Smiling from chaos sprang, with sweet accord  
 Through every nerve a secret influence stole,  
 And Genius triumph'd o'er her inmost soul.  
 From her, untortur'd by maternal throes,                     5  
 Their eldest-born immortal **SCIENCE** rose.  
 Propitious horoscopes announc'd his birth,  
 And gratulation rang through all the earth.

Cradled in forests, rocking tempests soothe  
 The wild ambition of his earliest youth.                     10  
 His eyes pursue the planets as they roll,  
 Or with the lightening dart from pole to pole.  
 As riper years confer more vigorous power  
 His busy thoughts to loftiest darings tower,



And while almighty wisdom he adores,                   15  
 The vast out-stretch'd creation he explores,  
 Through all the elements adventurous goes,  
 Though Air, Sea, Earth, and Fire his search oppose.

Now with the juvenile whim of gallant skill,  
 (Yet bent some useful purpose to fulfill,)                   20  
 Sportive the carrier-pigeon's neck he strides,  
 And cleaves with rapid wing th'ærial tides,  
 From Bagdad to Aleppo speeds the scroll  
 That fans the passions, or informs the soul.  
 Or, with Montgolfier dares cœlestial height,                   25  
 And emulates Elijah's fiery flight,  
 Sees cities dwindle, mightiest states grow small,  
 And spies in miniature the whole terrestrial ball.

Now, with less bold, yet more ennobling plans,  
 The telegraphs of naval tactics scans,                   30  
 Displays the colours, that, like Iris, fly,  
 Or whirls commanding rockets thro' the sky ;

Informs the mighty soul of gallant Howe,  
 'Till Glory rides on his victorious prow ;  
 Jarvis inspires, while with address divine 35  
 He breaks and triumphs o'er th'Iberian line ;  
 With all the magnanimity of Duncan blends ;  
 And succour to heroic Nelson lends.

Aye ! let vain France, despoil'd of every flag,  
 Still Babel schemes, still impious cunning brag, 40  
 Still foully hug the meretricious art  
 That blinds the judgment, and pollutes the heart,  
 While Britain's guardian Genius towers sublime,  
 And walks with SCIENCE in the starry clime.

Now, with the dread Monsoon see SCIENCE sweep, 45  
 O'er the tempestuous bosom of the deep ;  
 Now lightly skim the phosphorescent waves,  
 And now plunge down to Ocean's darkest caves.  
 Condemn'd Leviathan starts in despair,  
 While prison'd pearls burst forth to gem his hair, 50

As from Heraclea he the the magnet tears,  
And the rich gift to favour'd Florio bears.

Full of stupendous projects, SCIENCE goes  
Fearless o'er Arab's sands, o'er Zembla's snows ;  
Surprises Nature in her loneliest haunts, 55  
And a gay requiem over Ignorance chaunts,  
Now with Linnæus treads th'ennamell'd meads,  
Where wily Love botanic sageness leads.  
And lo ! each vegetable breast suspires,  
Breathing in odorous plaints Idalian fires ; 60  
The genial magic steals from flower to flower,  
And SCIENCE smiles at Love's transcendent power.

Now with severer brow, and piercing ken,  
He storms the tangled brake, the cavern'd den ;  
Scaffolds the elephant's enormous sides, 65  
Till castles move as warrior Wisdom guides.  
Anon, of lonely contemplation fond,  
Surveys the fabrics of the beaver pond ;

Or Nature's policy delights to see  
 In the well ordered kingdom of the bee. 70

There no licentious demagogues declaim,  
 (For self and social interest are the same,)  
 No forc'd equality insults the laws  
 Of various worth and rank that Nature draws ;  
 In every breast a love of order glows, 75  
 The bond of patriots, and the scourge of foes ;  
 Though rich industrious, though loyal free,  
 And such, O Britain ! as thou still may'st be,

Nor clogg'd by earth, nor bounded by the skies,  
 Undaunted SCIENCE raging fire defies : 80  
 The burst volcano to the crater mounts,  
 And springs refresh'd from Hecla's boiling founts,  
 When lurid lightnings spread dismay around,  
 And thunder rolls the death-denouncing sound,  
 He calmly views the elemental jar, 85  
 And rears the magic rod that stills the heavenly war.

With not less ease he wields terrestrial rays,  
 Constructs the furnace, and confines the blaze,  
 Flings to the furious blast the shapeless ore,  
 And strait redeems the bright metallic store : 90  
 The sordid world admire the glittering prize,  
 And gaze on SCIENCE with converted eyes.  
 So, when the captive Israelites, consign'd  
 To bigot flames, appear'd unhurt, refin'd ;  
 Their radiant forms bespoke their mighty Lord, 95  
 And impious heathens trembled and ador'd.

Such was the youth whole incitorious prime,  
 (Years of proud promise and attempts sublime !)  
 From Honour's sacred lips drew pure acclaim,  
 And fill'd the trumpet of eternal Fame. 100

At length his praises reach'd the modest ears  
 Of TASTE ; a lovely nymph of tender years,  
 Daughter of Beauty by a reverend sire,  
 What time declining years and milder fire

Still possess'd charms to fascinate the fair,  
 And Virtue sought a solace of his care. 105

Nurs'd in the lap of Elegance, the maid  
 In early childhood with the Graces play'd.  
 Oft twining sprigs of bay and fragrant flowers  
 In gay festoons, she chain'd the smiling Hours : 110  
 Delighted Fancy hover'd round her head,  
 And flew obsequious where the virgin led.

Yet most she mild Simplicity approv'd,  
 Her converse courted, and her pleasures lov'd.  
 With her she oft has risen at earliest dawn, 115  
 And saunter'd on the dew-bespangled lawn,  
 Greeting the orient Sun's inspiring beams,  
 That tune the groves, and animate the streams.  
 With her she oft has climb'd the mountain brow  
 To sketch new landscapes in the scene below ; 120  
 For, at her bidding magic Fancy flew,  
 And still created as her mistress drew.

From yonder hill she par'd a shapeless hump ;  
 That lawn embellish'd with its tufted clump ;  
 Yon mouldering Priory that naked stood,           125  
 Emboss'd with ivy, and o'erhung with wood ;  
 There thro' a lazy streamlet's oozy bed  
 The lively current in meanders led ;  
 Swell'd the light convex of that bordering height,  
 Yet gave the distant scenery to our sight.           130

But not by rural forms was TASTE engross'd ;  
 Each imitative Art her aid could boast.  
 She govern'd Angelo's impetuous soul,  
 And raptur'd Raphael own'd her soft controul,  
 Seductive Titian's glowing colours live           135  
 With all the vivid charms her soul could give.

When mighty Handel's comprehensive mind  
 Each congruous element of sound combin'd,  
 Exalted TASTE rehears'd the choral lays,  
 And peal'd with Angels the Messiah's praise.           140

Yet oft she lov'd to seek the secret haunts  
 Where the mild anchorite his vesper chaunts ;  
 Or list, as in the faintly-floating wind  
 Romantic Melody with sorrow pin'd.  
 In love-lorn grief did Philomela plain ;           145  
 Recording all the sadly pleasing strain,  
 At evening to the Leasowes she repair'd,  
 And sooth'd her Shenstone, as his woes she shar'd.  
 Hark ! how as thrills the sweet Storace's note  
 Responsive warblings in the æther float !           150  
 Soft Zephyrs waft them to the distant waste,  
 And wondering Wildness owns the power of TASTE.

But now, (as Fate ordains that heavenly Love  
 Shall every heaven-descended spirit move,)  
 Her tender breast dilates with new desire,           155  
 And the pure flame is sanction'd by her sire ;  
 For lo ! commission'd from th'empyreal sky  
 Young SCIENCE beams all-glorious to her eye,  
 As achromatic Truth his form displays  
 In the bright focus of cœlestial rays.           160



The nymph enamour'd smiles him to her arms,  
 And SCIENCE pants entrammell'd by her charms.

Abrupt---the clangor of impetuous war  
 Rouses his soul some God-like deed to dare;  
 He flies the scenes where Love and Pleasure smile, 165  
 And hurls Britannia's thunder o'er the Nile.  
 The potent spell strikes impious Folly dead :  
 Wisdom awakes from her primæval bed,  
 And hails the valiant chief by sacred SCIENCE led. }

But who can tell how gentle TASTE deplor'd 170  
 The fate that sever'd all her soul ador'd !  
 For oft, though many a fond and pleasing art  
 Play'd 'round her fancy, none e'er touch'd her heart :  
 Like the smooth ice reflecting lunar rays,  
 Her breast was cold amid the glittering blaze ;  
 But when the fervid sun of SCIENCE shone,  
 He swell'd her bosom, and unloos'd her zone.

From court to court she flew with anxious haste,  
 And the gay footsteps of her childhood trac'd ;  
 The solemn pile, the gay arcade explor'd,      180  
 The polish'd drawing-room, the festive board :  
 Now, all seem'd pompous pride, or gaudy glare,  
 Or flippant folly, or voluptuous snare.  
 When Memory, (to grief as kind as dear,)  
 Whispers reviving counsel in her ear,      185  
 And proudly points to the sequester'd scene  
 Where Canada enjoys her lov'd Vice-Queen.  
 "Ah! there," with transport, "there," exclaims the maid,  
 " How oft with PRESCOTT have I fondly stray'd ;  
 " Caught from her lips the precepts that refin'd,      190  
 " And stamp'd a value on my opening mind ;  
 " There from the wife, the mother, and the friend,  
 " Learn'd Elegance and Love with Dignity to blend!"  
 Then bright and rapid as the nothern-light,  
 Across the vast atlantic sped her flight.      195  
 The skiff Velella crowded every sail  
 To catch the convoy and enjoy the gale ;

The pilot Phæton stooping flew before ;  
 And fluttering Halcyon hail'd her from the shore.  
 Dione 'spied her 'mid the joyous groupe,           200  
 And flew to launch her elegant chaloupe,  
 That matchless conch in which young Venus lay  
 When first she sprang from the Ægean spray.  
 Scarce the light form of TASTE the barque had press'd,  
 When in the Chateau shone the much lov'd guest. 205

Here, as invisible to vulgar eyes  
 From room to room with rapid glance she flies,  
 Amaz'd she sees, while rapture thrills her breast,  
 The genuine soul of SCIENCE stand confest,

The veteran warrior, o'er whose laurel'd brow       210  
 The olive loves to shoot its foliage now,  
 Had rais'd the veil that hangs o'er future years,  
 Where SCIENCE fostering Public-Weal appears ;  
 Then with his Consort lent a willing hand  
 To honour TASTE and SCIENCE through the land. 215.

Plain, proud encomium ! worthy those to share  
 Who make a people's happiness their care !  
 For not to arid land more vigour brings  
 The confluent bounty of redundant springs,  
 Not to the lingering germs that frost conceals      220  
 Breathe more auspicious spring's etesian gales,  
 Than TASTE and SCIENCE o'er th'untutor'd mind.  
 Shed the best benefits of human-kind.

And lo ! the grateful ministers prepare  
 Whatever exquisite, whatever rare      225  
 The tributary elements supply  
 From vasty ocean, from encircling sky,  
 From teeming earth, or from transmuting fire  
 The sage solicits and the world admire.  
 The curious ark, by labouring SCIENCE fill'd,      230  
 Enamour'd TASTE delights with charms to gild.

There in their native garb obscurely shine  
 The rugged treasures of the unwrought mine :

Like the first natives of our hardy climes  
 Who scorn'd the polish of refining times. 235  
 Here, where the sun descends in mid-day blaze,  
 Prismatic crystals put to rout his rays ;  
 The scatter'd host, as in bright troops they fly,  
 Arrest, and dazzle, and enchant the eye:  
 Ah ! were to it alone the power confin'd ! 240  
 Did the gay brilliant ne'er seduce the mind,  
 Then e'en on earth had Virtue founded thrones  
 On the bright pediment of precious stones.  
 As, yet, when worldly time shall pass away,  
 And sun and moon be lost in endless day, 245  
 A wondrous city shall the blest infold,  
 Its walls of jasper, and its streets of gold,  
 Its bright foundations evermore to last  
 With ruby, sapphire, and sardonyx grac'd,  
 While every gem through the sublime abode 250  
 Shall multiply the glorious light of God.

But 'till the soul fling off this nymphal coil  
 And rise transform'd, like Psyche, from the soil,

Let humble Prudence from Temptation run,  
 And even the extremes of Virtue shun. 255  
 This sage advice, that suits Religion best,  
 Has modest TASTE by emblem here express'd.  
 For though no diamond glitter from afar,  
 Yet not excluded is the ponderous spar,  
 Magnesian daze, calcareous stalactite, 260  
 Or mild Argilla's boasted zeolite.  
 Here from the causeway fabled giants rear'd  
 The proud Basalt his tribute has preferr'd ;  
 And wild Niagara her foam return'd,  
 Like weeping Niobe to stone transform'd. 265

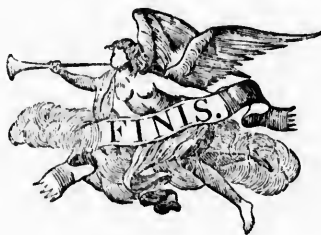
But say, what trophies from the vast profound  
 With various magic ravish or astound ?  
 The scor'd volute, Amphion's favourite shell ;  
 The virgin Bulla, Thetis lov'd so well ;  
 The coral house, where polypes yet adhere ; 270  
 The leopard-cowry, to the Gnidians dear :

And justly dear, who Periander wreck'd  
When the proud foe their liberties attack'd.

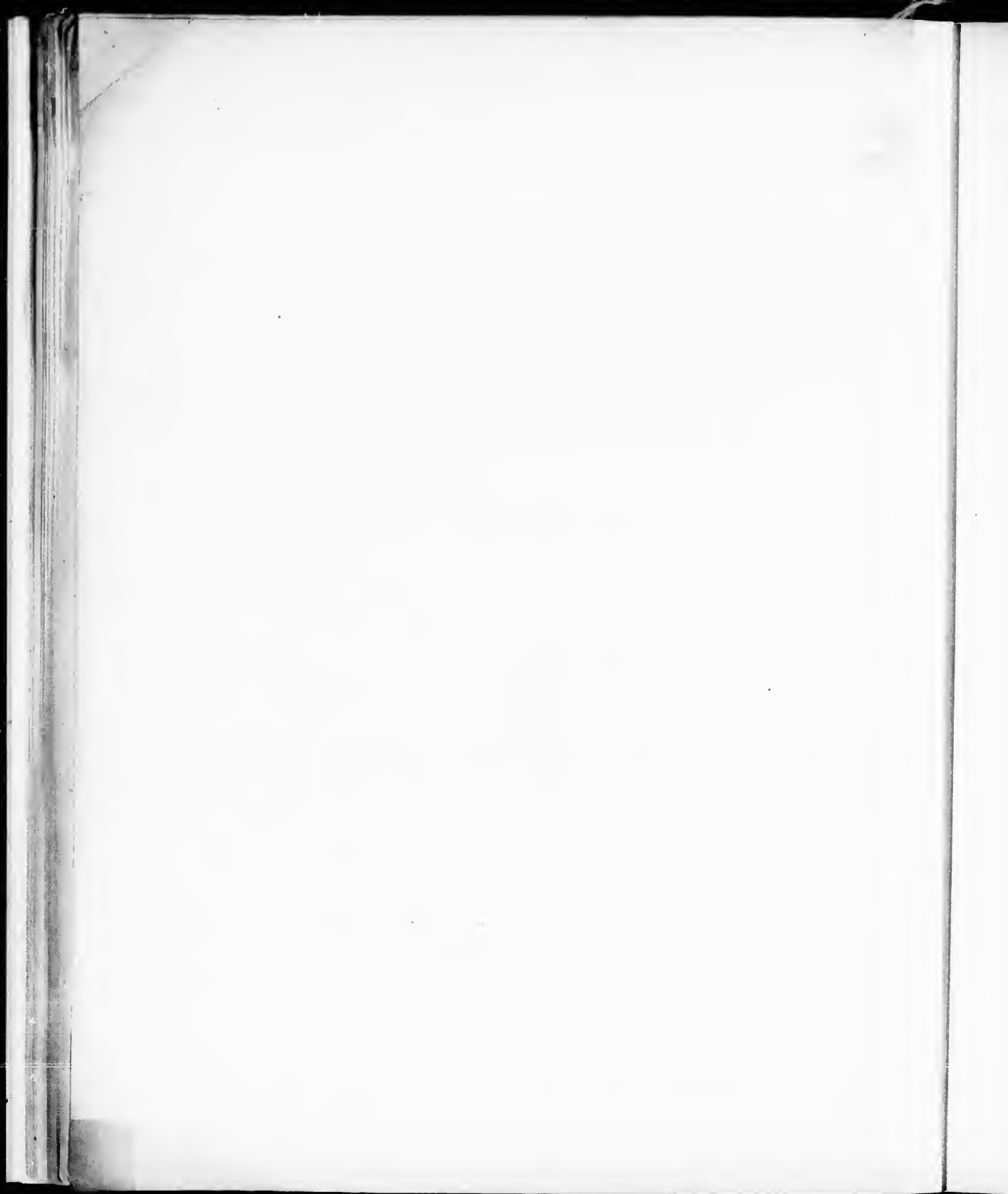
With these contrasted, how we smile to see  
The cataphracted fish in panoply ;                    275  
Or the huge Echinus, whose hedge-hog spines  
Must choak the whale who on such dainties dines ;  
Or, as sly Humour points, in separate niche,        }  
The wise-saw'd owl whom budding horns enrich,        }  
While the dumb marble boasts the bacon-slitich ! } 280

But vain th' inadequate description, vain  
The skimming comment of the Muse's strain.  
How can she body forth her rainbow words  
To paint the living colours of the birds ?  
How conjure up each floweret to the eye                285  
Its form delineate, and revive its dye ?  
How, most of all, the witching Grace convene  
That breathes a matchless magic o'er the scene  
Where mingling Pleasure and Instruction lurk,  
While TASTE and SCIENCE own it as their work ? 290

By Virtue favour'd, as by Wisdom plann'd,  
Long may the honour'd union blefs the land  
Of TASTE and SCIENCE ! wide may they impart  
The influence that refines and cheers the heart,  
Yet nerves the soul t'establish as to feel 295.  
The public glory, and the public weal !  
And long may Canada exulting own  
PRESCOTTS reflecting lustre to the throne.







## NOTES.

FROM the nature of the foregoing poem, some allusions necessarily arose which may not be generally obvious. To elucidate these the author has subjoined a few notes, for which if he should receive the slightest thanks from any of his fair readers, he will be amply satisfied. The learned philosopher, for whom they are not intended, should pass them by without spleen, as he does the toy-shop, or the perfume warehouse.

*Line 21.—Carrier-Pigeon.*] These pigeons used to arrive at Aleppo with expresses from Bagdad, or from Babylon, (30 days journey,) in 48 hours. Within these few years past, this rapid post has been broken up; the Curds having learned to rob the mail, and kill the couriers.

*L. 25.—Montgolfier.*] The balloon of Montgolfier, (the first mere mortal who explored the skies,) was elevated by fire. Since his time balloons have been generally constructed with inflammable air, which is about twelve times lighter than an equal bulk of the atmosphere.

*L. 31.—Iris.*] The rainbow; the messenger of the Gods, and generally employed on hostile occasions.

*L. 47.—Phosphorescent.*] The beautiful and astonishing brightness which the agitated ocean sometimes exhibits is known to derive its origin from the phosphoric light of myriads of minute animals who inhabit its waves.

*L. 51.—Heraclea* } The magnet is said to have been first discovered at Heraclea, a celebrated  
*L. 52.—Florio.* } sea-port of the ancient Lydia; and hence it has been sometimes called the Heracleian Stone. Its application to the compass is usually ascribed to Flavio da Molsi, a Neapolitan; in memory of whom the territory of Principato, that boasts the honour of having given him birth, quarters a compass in its arms.

*L. 62.—Science smiles.*] Every one knows that "the Loves of the Plants," as gravely expounded by Linnæus, constitute the foundation of modern botany; and under this title Dr. Darwin has favoured the world with an elegant, philoſophic poem. All this is very imposing, nay fascinating; still however Science does smile.

*L. 70.—Kingdom of the Bee.*] Those modern philosophers who so sagely tell us that monarchy is a state of society not conformable to nature, have unluckily, (I suppose,) never had the opportunity of peeping into a bee-hive.

*L. 86.—Magic rod.*] The electrical conductor silently disarms the thunder-cloud.

*L. 159.—Achromatic.*] The achromatic glass, (familiar to astronomers,) corrects the false colours, or aberration of light occasioned by others.

*L. 196.—The skiff Veleva.*] This elegant and curious little animal, (a species of Medusa,) has an oval, light-blue body, from the lower part of which, on each side, issue a number of

## NOTES.

small processes, like oars: From the upper part arises obliquely a transparent membrane that resembles, and actually serves as a sail. Thus equipped it is frequently seen cruising on the atlantic ocean.

L. 198.—*The pilot Phaëton.*] Phaëton æthereus, so called from the prodigious height to which it soars, is styled in english, the tropic-bird, from its being mostly seen within the tropic circles. Upon some extraordinary occasions, however, this bird has gone beyond its usual limits. Thus, to Kalm, when sailing under the auspices of SETON to Canada, it presented itself on the atlantic in 40° north latitude. Thus also Latham mentions one having been seen on the same ocean in 47½° north latitude; and this was probably the very pilot here commemorated. The appearance of this bird indicates to sailors that land is at no great distance.

L. 199. *Halcyon.*] The king-fisher, a beautiful and brilliant bird, tho' of a retired disposition, and chiefly haunting the banks of rivers, is supposed to be the true halcyon of the ancients, proverbially the type of happy days.

L. 200. *Dione.*] Venus Dione, so called after the supposed mother of Venus, is a native of the american seas. This exquisite bivalve, moored in the Chateau by the hand of TASTE, still experiences the shelter of its hospitable roof. The curiosity of such as have not seen it may probably be inflamed by the following encomium of the celebrated naturalist Dr. Shaw.—“ This rare and curious shell is numbered amongst the most valuable articles of the conchyliological cabinet; and is indeed considered, when in its complete and unblemished state, as one of the cimcha of modern museums.”

L. 224.—*As, yet,*] This alludes to a wonderfully splendid and sublime description by St. John, Rev. xxi.—

L. 252.—*Nymphat coil.*] The greek Psyche originally signified a butterfly. The ancients, observing the surprising transformation of this insect from its coiled and torpid state of nymph or chrysalis to that of a bright ærial being which soon vanished from their sight, employed the same name metaphorically to denote the soul. The general idea was figured, according to the principles of their mythology, under the representation of a beautiful young female, from whose shoulders issued the wings of the butterfly; and of whom they feigned that Cupid, who swayed all the rest of the world, was himself enamoured.

L. 258.—*Diamond.*] Of the five principal kinds of earth, the diamond and almost all the precious stones belong to the siliceous tribe.

L. 259.—*Ponderous spar.*] Clusters of regularly figured spars of the barytic order.

L. 260.—*Magnesian daze.*] The transparent muscovy or pure mica, one of the most elegant forms under which the magnesian earth presents itself.

L. 260.—*Calcareous stalactite.*] The stone icicle, or drop-stone.

## NOTES.

L. 261.—*Argillæ boastæ azule.*] The azure stone, or lapis lazuli. This beautiful mineral is composed principally of argillaceous earth, with some silver and iron.

L. 262.—*The causeway fabled giants rear'd.*] The celebrated basaltic columns in the north of Ireland, the noblest productions of this kind in the world, are commonly called the giant's causeway.

268.—*The stor'd volute.*] It requires but little aid from Fancy to discover the musical notes on this nice little marine rarity. The shells generally called volutes, Linnæus has distinguished by the title *corus* or cone.

L. 269.—*The virgin Bulla.*] This marine production (called also *buccinum virginicum* by Linnæus) distinguished by parti-coloured, double bands, and its purple, truncated column, is considered as one of the most elegant of the single-valved, convoluted shells.

L. 270.—*The coral house.*] It is now established that the various species of corals owe their existence to certain marine animals termed polypes, by whom they are inhabited.

L. 271.—*The leopard cowry.*] The *cypræa tigris* of Linnæus is also called *cypræa pardalis* or leopard cowry, from the dark-brown spots with which it is so strikingly diversified. Though not uncommon it is extremely handsome, and derives from nature its singularly high polish. It was formerly honoured with the title of Venus's shell, for the story ran that the tyrant Periander having attacked her favoured votaries in the isle of Gnidos, Venus issued her commands to these trusty agents, who assembled in considerable numbers, and wrecked his vessel.

L. 275.—*Cataphracted fish.*] So called by Ichthyologists, from its being clad in a complete coat of mail, which this truly hard word implies.

L. 276.—*Echinus.*] The sea-urchin: that here alluded to is uncommonly large, and formidable.

L. 280.—*Marble boasts the bacon-slice.*] This alludes to a specimen which bears a whimsical resemblance to that far-fam'd prize of conjugal good-humour.

L. 282.—*The skimming comment of the Muse's strain*] Superficially indeed has she touched upon a few, a very few of the curious and valuable articles of this elegant cabinet, which adorns, like a wreath of amaranth, the rugged brow of the gigantic rock of Quebec.

