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A Collection Of Poems In Six Volumes. By Several Hands

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On The Abuse of Travelling. A Canto, In Imitation of Spenser. By Gilbert West, Esq;

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ONTHE

ABUSE of TRAVELLING, A CANTO,

In Imitation of SPENSER.

By GILBERT WEST, Efq;

The ARGUMENT.

Archimage tempts the Red-Cross Knight
From love of Fairy-land,

With show of foreign pleasures all,

The which he doth withstand.

T

WISE was that Spartan Lawgiver of old,
Who rais'd on Virtue's base his well-built state,
Exiling from her walls barbaric gold,
With all the mischies that upon it wait,
Corruption, luxury, and envious hate;
And the distinctions proud of rich and poor,
Which among brethren kindle foul debate,
And teach Ambition, that to Fame would soar,
To the salfe lure of wealth her stooping wing to low'r.

II. Yet

With nortal dignity mich. Hvell out-face

Yet would Corruption foon have entrance found,
And all his boafted fehemes eftfoon decay'd,
Had not he caft a pow'rful circle round,
Which to a distance the arch felon fray'd,
And ineffectual his foul engines made:
This was, to weet, that politick command,
Which from vain travel the young Spartan stay'd,
Ne suffer'd him forsake his native land,
To learn deceitful arts, and science contraband.

III.

Yet had the ancient world her courts and fchools; Great Kings and Courtiers civil and refin'd; Great Rabbins, deeply read in Wifdom's rules, And all the arts that cultivate the mind, Embellish life, and polish human kind. Such, Afia, birth-place of proud monarchy, Such elder Ægypt, in thy kingdoms shin'd, Mysterious Ægypt, the rank nursery

Of superstitions fond, and learned vanity.

IV.

But what accomplishments, what arts polite, Did the young Spartan want his deeds to grace, Whose manly virtues, and heroick spright, Check'd by no thought impure, no falshood base,

VOL. II.

F

With

G.

[82]

With nat'ral dignity might well out-face
The glare of manners false, and mimick pride?
And wherefore should they range from place to place,
Who to their country's love so firm were ty'd,
All homely as she was, that for her oft they dy'd?

V.

And a footh it is (with rev'rence may ye hear,
And honour due to passion so resin'd)

The strong affection which true patriots bear

To their dear country, zealous is and blind,
And fond as is the love of womankind,
So that they may not her defects espy,
Ne other b paragone may ever find,
But gazing on her with an aweful eye

And superstitious zeal, her learn to deify.

VI.

And, like as is the faith unfound, untrue,
Of him, who wand'ring aye from fair to fair,
Conceiveth from each object passion new,
Or from his heart quite drives the troublous care;
So with the patriot-lover doth it fare,
Who through the world delighting aye to rove,
His country changeth with each change of air,
Or weening the delights of all to prove,
On none, or all alike bestows his vagrant love.

a Truth. b rival, crone to compare with her.

VII. c Als

VII.

e Als doth corruption in a diffant foil,
With double force d affay the youthful heart,
Expos'd fuspectless to the traytor's wile,
Expos'd unwarn'd to Pleasure's poison'd dart,
Expos'd unpractis'd in the world's wide mart,
Where each one lies, imposes, and betrays,
Without a friend due counsel to impart,
Without a parent's awe to rule his ways,
Without the check of shame, or spur of publick praise.

e Forthy, false Archimago, traytor vile,
Who burnt 'gainst Fairy-land with ceaseless ire,
'Gan cast with foreign pleasures to beguile
Her faithful knight, and quench the heav'nly fire
That did his virtuous bosom aye inspire
With zeal unseigned for her service true,
And send him forth in chivalrous attire,
Arm'd at all points adventures to pursue,
And wreak upon her soes his vowed vengeance due.

IX.

So as he journeyed upon the way,
Him foon the fly enchaunter f over-hent,
Clad like a Fairy knight in armour gay,
With painted shield, and spear right forward bent,

e moreover, besides. d'assault. e therefore. f overtook.

F 2

[84 7

In knightly g guise and shew of h hardiment,
That aye prepared was for bloody fight.
Whereat the i Elsin knight with speeches gent
Him first saluted, who, well as he might,
Him fair salutes again, as k seemeth courteous knight.

X.

Then 'gan he 1 purpose frame of valiant deeds
Atchiev'd by foreign knights of m prowess great,
And mighty same which emulation breeds
In virtuous breast, and kindleth martial heat;
Of arts and sciences for warriour n meet,
And knight that would in feats of arms excel,
Or him, who o liefer choosing calm retreat,
With peace and gentle virtue aye would dwell,
Who have their triumphs, like as hath Bellona fell.

Thefe, as he faid, befeemed knight to know,
And all be they in Fairy-lond y-taught,
Where ev'ry art and all fair virtues grow;
Yet various climes with various fruits are fraught,
And fuch in one hath full perfection P raught
The which no skill may in another rear.
So gloz'd th' enchaunter till he hath him brought
To a huge rock, that clomb so high in air,
That from it he q uneath the murmuring surge mote hear.

g fashion. h courage. i fairy. k beseemeth. 1 discourse, or argument. m might, valour. n proper, fit. o rather. P reach'd. 9 hardly.

XII. Thence



[85]

XII.

Thence the falt wave beyond in profpect wide
A spacious plain the false enchaunter show'd,
With goodly castles deck'd on ev'ry side,
And silver streams, that down the champain slow'd,
And wash'd the vineyards that beside them stood,
And groves of myrtle; als the lamp of day
His orient beams display'd withouten cloud,
Which lightly on the gliss'ning waters play,
And tinge the castles, woods, and hills with purple ray.

XIII.

So fair a landschape charm'd the wond'ring knight;
And eke the breath of morning fresh and sweet
Inspir'd his jocund spirit with delight,
And ease of heart for soft persuasion meet.
Then him the traytor base 'gan fair entreat,
And from the rock as downward they descend,
Of that blest lond his praises 'gan repeat,
Till he him moved hath with him to ' wend;
So to the billowy shore their hasty march they bend.

There in a painted bark all trim and gay, Whose fails full glad embrac'd the wanton wind, There sat a stranger swight in quaint array, That seem'd of various garbs t attone combin'd,

r to go. I man or woman, t together.

F 3

OF

[86]

Of Europe, Afric, east and western Inde.
Als round about him many creatures stood,
Of several nations and of divers kind,
Apes, serpents, birds with human speech endow'd,
And monsters of the land, and wonders of the stood.

XV.

He was to weet a mighty traveller,
Who Curiofity thereafter u hight,
And well he knew each coaft and harbour fair,
And ev'ry nation's latitude and fite,
And how to steer the wand'ring bark aright.
So to him strait the false enchaunter bore,
And with him likewise brought the red-cross knight:
'Then fairly him besought to wast them o'er;
Swift slew the dauncing bark, and reach'd the adverse shore.

XVI.

There when they landed were, them ran to greet
A bevy bright of damfels gent and gay,
Who with foft finiles, and falutation fweet,
And courteous violence would force them flay,
And rest them in their bow'r not far away;
Their bow'r that most luxuriously was w-dight
With all the dainties of air, earth and sea,
All that mote please the taste, and charm the fight,

u was called. w adorned, set forth.

The pleafure of the board, and charm of beauty bright.

XVII. Als

[87] XVII.

Als might he therein hear a mingled found
Of feaft and fong and laughing jollity,
That in the noise was all distinction drown'd
Of graver sense, or musick's harmony.
Yet were there some in that blithe company
That aptly could discourse of virtuous lore,
Of manners, wisdom and sound policy;
Yet x nould they often ope their sacred store,
Ne might their voice be heard mid riot and uproar.

Alk in a visce black he .IIIVX

Thereto the joys of idleness and love,
And luxury, that besots the noblest mind,
And custom prevalent at distance drove
All sense and relish of a higher kind,
Whereby the soul to virtue is resin'd.
Instead whereof the arts of slavery
Were taught, of slavery perverse and blind,
That vainly boasts her native liberty,
Yet wears the chains of pride, of lust, and gluttony.
XIX.

Of which the red-cross knight right well aware, Would in no wife agree with them to go, Albeit with courtly glee their leader fair, Hight Politessa, him did kindly woo.

* would not.

y called.

F 4

But

[88]

But all was false pretence, and hollow show,
False as the flow'rs which to their breasts they ty'd,
Or those which seemed in their cheeks to glow,
For both were false, and not by Nature dy'd,
False rivals of the spring, and beauty's rosy pride.

XX.

Then from behind then straightway 'gan advance An uncouth stripling quaintly habited,
As for some revel mask, or antick daunce,
All chequer'd o'er with yellow, blue, and red;
Als in a vizor black he shrouds his head,
The which he tossed to and fro amain,
And z eft his lathy falchion brandished,
As if he meant serce battle to a darrain
And like a wanton ape eft skip'd he on the plain.

And eft about him skip'd a gaudy throng
Of youthful gallants, frolick, trim, and gay,
Chanting in careless notes their amourous song,
Match'd with like careless gests, like amourous play.
Als were they gorgeous, dress'd in rich array,
And well accepted of that semale train,
Whose hearts to joy and mirth devoted aye,
Each prosser'd love receive without disdain,
And part without regret from each late-favour'd swain.

z often.

a attempt.

XXII. And

[89]

XXII.

And now they do accord in wanton daunce
To join their hands upon the flow'ry plain;
The whiles with amourous leer and eyes afkaunce
Each damfel fires with love her glowing fwain;
Till all-impatient of the tickling pain,
In fudden laughter forth at once they break,
And ending fo their daunce, each tender twain
To shady bow'rs forthwith themselves betake,
Deep hid in myrtle groves, beside a silver lake.

XXIII.

Thereat the red-crofs knight was much enmov'd, And 'gan his heart with indignation fwell, To view in forms fo made to be belov'd, Ne faith, ne truth, ne heav'nly virtue dwell; But lust instead, and falshood, child of hell; And glutton sloth, and love of gay attire: And footh to fay, them well could parallel Their lusty b paramours in vain defire; Well fitted to each dame was ev'ry gallant squire.

XXIV.

Yet when their fov'reign calls them forth to arms, Their fov'reign, whose c behests they most revere, Right wisely can they menage war's alarms, And wield with valour great the martial spear,

b lovers.

c commands.

[90]

So that their name is dreaded far and near.

Oh! that for Liberty they so did fight!

Then need no Fairy-land their prowess fear,

Ne give in charge to her advent'rous knight

Their friendship to beware, and sense-deluding sleight.

XXV.

But not for liberty they wagen war.

But folely to d aggrate their mighty lord,
For whom their dearest blood they e nillen spare,
Whenso him listeth draw the conqu'ring sword;
So is that idol vain of them ador'd,
Who ne with might beyond his meanest thrall
Endued, ne with superior wisdom stor'd,
Sees at his feet prostrated millions fall,
And with religious drad obey his princely call.

Thereto fo high and stately was his port,
That all the petty kings him fore envy'd,
And would him imitate in any fort,
With all the mimick pageantry of pride,
And worship'd be like him, and deify'd
Of courtly sycophants and f caitifs vile,
Who to those services themselves apply'd,
And in that school of servitude ere while
Had learn'd to bow and grin, and slatter and beguile.

d please. e will not.

XXVII. For

f scoundrels.

[91]

For to that feminary of fashions vain
The rich and noble from all parts repair,
Where grown enamour'd of the gaudy train,
And courteous haviour gent and debonair,
They cast to imitate such semblaunce fair;
And deeming meanly of their native lond,
Their own rough virtues they distain to wear,
Ne other matter care, ne other understond.

XXVIII.

Wherefore th' enchaunter vile, who fore was griev'd To fee the knight reject those damsels gay, Wherewith he thought him fure to have deceiv'd, Was minded to that court him to convey, And daze his eyen with Majesty's bright ray: So to a stately castle he him brought, Which in the midst of a great garden lay, And wifely was by cunning craftsmen wrought, And with all riches deck'd surpassing human thought.

There underneath a fumptuous canopy,
That with bright ore and diamonds glitter'd far,
Sate the fwoln form of royal g furquedry,
And deem'd itself h allgates some creature rare,

g pride.

h by all means; omnino.

While

[92]

While its own haughty flate it mote compare
With the base count'nance of the vassal fry,
That seem'd to have nor eye, nor tongue, nor ear;
Ne any sense, ne any faculty,
That did not to his throne owe servile ministry.

XXX.

Yet wift he not that half that homage low
Was at a wizard's shrine in private pay'd,
The which conducted all that goodly show,
And as he list th' imperial puppet play'd,
By secret springs and wheels right wisely made,
That he the subtle wires mote not i avize,
But deem in footh that all he did or faid,

From his own motion and free grace did rife,
And that he juftly hight immortal, great, and wife.

XXXI.

And eke to each of that fame gilded train,
That meekly round that lordly throne did stand,
Was by that wizard ty'd a magick chain,
Whereby their actions all he mote command,
And rule with hidden influence the land.

Yet to his lord he outwardly did bend,
And those same magick chains within his hand
Did seem to place, albeit by the end

He held them fast, that none them from his gripe mote rend.

i discover, perceive.

XXXII. He

[93] XXXII.

He was to weet an old and wrinkled mage,
Deep read in all the arts of policy,
And from experience grown fo crafty fage,
That none his fecret counfels mote defcry,
Ne fearch the mines of his deep fubtlety.
Thereto fair peace he lov'd and cherished;
And trasfick did promote and industry,
Whereby the vulgar were in quiet fed,
And the proud lords in ease and plenty wallowed.

XXXIII.

Thence all the gorgeous fplendor of the court,

k Sith the fole bus'ness of the rich and great,

Was to that hope-built temple to refort,

And round their earthly god in glory wait,

Who with their pride to swell his royal state,

Did pour large sums of gold on ev'ry one,

Brought him by harpies fell, him to aggrate,

And torn from peasants vile, beneath the throne

Who lay deep sunk in earth, and inwardly did groan.

XXXIV.

Behold, fays Archimage, the envy'd height
Of human grandeur to the gods ally'd!
Behold you fun of pow'r, whose glorious light,
O'er this rejoicing land out-beaming wide,

k Since.

Calls



[94] .

Calls up those princely flow'rs on ev'ry side:
Which like the painted daughters of the plain,
Ne toil, ne spin, ne stain their silken pride
With care or forrow, sith withouten pain,
Them in eternal joy those heav'nly beams maintain.

XXXV.

Them morn and evening joy eternal greets,
And for them thousands and ten thousands moil,
Gathering from land and ocean honied sweets
For them, who in soft indolence the while
And slumb'ring peace enjoy the luscious spoil;
And as they view around the careful bees
m Forespent with labour and incessant toil,
With the sweet contrast learn themselves to please,
And heighten by compare the suxury of ease.

Ungenerous man, quoth then the Fairy knight,
That can rejoice to fee another's woe!
And thou, unworthy of that glory bright,
Wherewith the gods have deck'd thy princely brow,
That doth on Sloth and Gluttony beflow
The hard-earn'd fruits of Industry and Pain,
And to the dogs the labourer's morfel throw,
Unmindful of the hand that fow'd the grain,
The poor earth-trodden root of all thy greatness vain.

1 work bard.

m quite spent.

XXXVII. Oh

[95] XXXVII.

Oh foul abuse of facred Majesty,
That boasteth her fair self from heav'n ysprong!
Where are the marks of thy divinity?
Truth, Mercy, Justice steady, bold and strong,
To aid the meek, and curb oppressive wrong?
Where is the care and love of publick good,
That to the people's father doth belong?
Where the vice-gerent of that bounteous God,
Who bids dispense to all, what he for all bestow'd?
XXXVIII.

Dwell'st thou not rather, like the prince of hell,
In Pandemonium foul of ugly stends?
Dissimulation, Discord, Malice fell,
Reckless Ambition, that right onward n wends,
'Tho' his wild march o'erthrow both same and friends,
And virtue and his country; crooked Guile,
Obliquely creeping to his treach'rous ends,
And Flatt'ry, curs'd assassin, who the while
He holds the murd'rous knife, can fawn, and kiss, and smile.

XXXIX.

Then 'gan he strait unvail the mirrour bright, The which fair o Una gave him heretofore, Ere he as yet, with p Paynim foe to fight, For foreign land had lest his native shore.

n goes. O Una in Spenfer represents Truth, see B. 1. Fairy Queen.

P Heathen, the usual enemy of knighterrants in Spenser.

This



[96]

This in his careful breaft he always bore, And on it oft would caft his wary eye; For it by magick framed was of yore, So that no falfhood mote it well abye, But it was plainly feen, or fearfully did fly.

XL. phas done

This on that gay affembly did he turn,
And faw confounded quite the gawdy scene;
Saw the close fire that inwardly did burn,
And waste the throbbing heart with secret q teen;
Saw base dependence in the haughty mien
Of lords and princes; saw the magick chain.
That each did wear, but deem'd he wore unseen,
The whiles with count'naunce glad he hid his pain,
And homage did require from each poor lowly swain.

XLI.

And tho' to that old mage they louted down,
Yet did they dearly wish for his decay:
Als trembled he, and aye upon the throne
Of his great lord his tott'ring steps did stay,
And oft behind him skulk'd for great dismay;
Als shook the throne, when so the villain crew,
That underneath oppress'd and groveling lay,
Impatient of the grievous burthen grew,
And loudly for redress and liberty did sue.

9 pain, anguish.

XLII. There

[97] XLII.

There mote he likewise see a ribbald train Of dancers, broid'rers, flaves of luxury, Who cast o'er all those lords and ladies vain A vail of semblaunce fair, and richest dye, That none their inward baseness mote descry. But nought was hidden from that mirrour bright. Which when false Archimago 'gan espy, He feared for himfelf, and warn'd the knight From fo detested place to maken speedy slight.

So on he passed, till he comen hath To a fmall river, that full flow did glide, As it uneath mote find its watry path For stones and rubbish, that did choak its tide, So lay the mould'ring piles on ev'ry fide. Seem'd there a goodly city once had been, Albeit now fallen were her royal pride,

Yet mote her auncient greatness still be feen, Still from her ruins prov'd the world's imperial queen.

XLIV.

For the rich spoil of all the continents, The boast of art and nature there was brought, Corinthian brafs, Ægyptian monuments, With hieroglyphick fculptures all inwrought,

VOL. II.

G

And



[98]

And Parian marbles, by Greek artists taught To counterfeit the forms of heroes old, And fet before the eye of fober thought Lycurgus, Homer, and Alcides bold. All these and many more that may not here be told.

XLV.

There in the middest of a ruin'd pile, That feem'd a theatre of circuit vaft, Where thousands might be feated, he erewhile Discover'd hath an uncouth trophy plac'd; Seem'd a huge heap of stone together cast In nice diforder and wild fymmetry, Urns, broken freezes, statues half defac'd, And pedestals with antique imagery · Emboss'd, and pillars huge of costly porphyry.

XLVI.

Aloft on this strange basis was r ypight With girlonds gay adorn'd a golden chair, In which are finiling with felf-bred delight, In careless pride reclin'd a lady fair, And to foft mufick lent her idle ear; The which with pleasure so did her enthrall, That for aught elfe she had but little care, For wealth, or fame, or honour feminal, Or gentle love, fole king of pleafures natural.

r placed.

XLVII. Als



[99]

XLVH.

Als by her fide, in richest robes array'd, An eunuch fate, of vifage pale and dead, Unfeemly paramour for royal maid! Yet him she courted oft and honoured, And oft would by her place in princely s fted, Though from the dregs of earth he fpringen were, And oft with regal crowns she deck'd his head, And oft, to footh her vain and foolish ear, She bade him the great names of mighty t Kefars bear.

XLVIII.

Thereto herself a pompous title bore, For the was vain of her great auncestry, But vainer still of that prodigious store Of arts and learning, which she vaunts to lie In the rich archieves of her treasury. These she to strangers oftentimes would shew, With grave demean and folemn vanity, Then proudly claim as to her merit due, The venerable praise and title of Vertù.

XLIX.

Vertù she was v yclep'd, and held her court With outward flews of pomp and majefty, To which natheless few others did resort, But men of base and vulgar industry,

s Seat or place. v called or named. t emperors.

G 2

Or

Is

[100]

Or fuch perdy as of them cozen'd be,
Mimes, fidlers, pipers, eunuchs fqueaking fine,
Painters and builders, fons of mafonry,
Who well could measure with the rule and line,
And all the orders five right craftily define.

L

But other skill of cunning architect,
How to contrive the house for dwelling best,
With self-sufficient scorn they wont neglect,
As corresponding with their purpose least;
And herein be they copied of the rest,
Who aye pretending love of science fair,
And gen'rous purpose to adorn the breast
With lib'ral arts, to Vertù's court repair,
Yet nought but tunes and names, and coins away do bear

LI.

For long, to vifit her once-honour'd feat
The studious sons of learning have forbore;
Who whilom thither ran with pilgrim feet
Her venerable reliques to adore,
And load their bosoms with the facred store,
Whereof the world large treasure yet enjoys.
But w sithence she declin'd from wisdom's lore,
They left her to display her pompous toys
To virtuosi vain, and wonder-gaping boys.

w fince.

LII. Forthy



[101]

LII.

Forthy to her a num'rous train doth x long
Of ushers in her court well practifed,
Who aye about the monied stranger throng,
Off'ring with shews of courteous y bountihed
Him through the rich apartments all to lead,
And shew him all the wonders of her state,
Whose names and price they wisely can z areed,
And tell of coins of old and modern date,
And pictures false and true right well discriminate.

LIII

Als are they named after him, whose tongue Shook the dictator in his curule chair, And thund'ring through the Roman senate, rung His bold Philippics in Antonius' ear; Which when the Fairy heard, he sigh'd full dear, And casting round his quick discerning eye, At ev'ry a deal he dropt a manly tear, As he the stately buildings mote descry, Baths, theatres, and sanes in mould'ring fragments lie.

x belong. y good-nature or civility. 2 relate or declare. Those under fort of antiquaries, who go about with strangers to show them the antiquities, &c. of Rome, are called Ciceroni. A strevery turn, every now and then.

G 3

LIV. And,



[102]

LIV.

And, oh! imperial city! then he faid,
How art thou tumbled from thine Alpine throne!
Whereon, like Jove on high Olympus' head,
Thou fittedft efft unequall'd and alone,
And madedft through the world thy greatness known;
While from the western isles, to Indus' shore,
From seven-mouth'd Nilus, to the frozen Don,
Thy dradded bolts the strong-pounc'd Eagle bore,
And taught the nations round thy Fasces to adore!

LV.

And doth among thy reliques nought remain,
No little portion of that haughty fpright?
Which made thee whilom fcorn foft Pleafure's chain,
And in free Virtue place thy chief delight,
Whereby through ages shone thy glory bright?
And is there nought remaining to confound
Those, who regardless of thy woeful plight,
With idle wonder view thy ruins round,
And without thought survey thy memorable wound?

Arife, thou genuine Cicero, and declare That all these mighty ruins scatter'd wide, The sepulchres of Roman virtue were, And trophies vast of Luxury and Pride,

Those

[103]

Those fell diseases whereof Rome erst dy'd.

And do you then with vile mechanic thought
Your course, ye sons of Fairy, hither guide,
'That ye those gay refinements may be taught,
Which Liberty's fair lond to shame and thraldom brought?

Let Rome those vassal arts now meanly boast,
Which to her vanquish'd thralls she erst resign'd;
Ye who enjoy that freedom she has lost,
That great prerogative of human-kind,
Close to your hearts the precious jewel bind,
And learn the rich possession to maintain,
Learn Virtue, Justice, Constancy of Mind,
Not to be mov'd by Fear or Pleasure's train;
Be these your arts, ye brave, these only are humane.

LVIII.

As he thus spake, th' enchaunter half asham'd Wist not what sitting answer to devise,
Als was his caitive heart well-nigh instam'd,
By that same knight so virtuous, brave, and wise,
That long he doubts him farther to entice.
But he was harden'd and remorseless grown,
Through practice old of villainy and vice;
So to his former wiles he turns him soon,
As in another place hereafter shall be shown.

G 4

THE

