

**THE PLEASURES
OF SIGHT: A POEM**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649418039

The Pleasures of Sight: A Poem by John Holland

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

JOHN HOLLAND

**THE PLEASURES
OF SIGHT: A POEM**

THE
PLEASURES OF SIGHT:

A POEM:

BY JOHN HOLLAND.

"Straight toward heaven my wondering eyes I turn'd,
And gazed awhile the ample sky—
—about me round I saw
Hill, dale, and shady woods, and sunny plains,
And liquid lapse of murmuring streams; by these
Creatures that lived, and moved, and walk'd and flew;
Birds on the branches warbling; all things smiled;
With fragrance and with joy my heart o'erflow'd."

MILTON.

SHEFFIELD:
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY J. BLACKWELL.

1829.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	-----

PREFACE.

THE following rhapsody professes to illustrate the gratifications of Sight,—that illustrious sense, which connects the intelligent mind with the visible creation. It is through the attributes of this excellent power, conferred alike upon man and most of the inferior animals, that the beauty of the universe is apprehended; and light, colour, form, magnitude, and motion, are respectively made to minister delight and satisfaction to the beholder.

The Eye, which is the material organ of this rare and excursive faculty, contributes no less by its beauty to the proper perfection of the human countenance, than by its use it ministers to the operations of the soul. Its hues, its movements, and its extraordinary effects, have ever been the admiration of philosophers, the attraction of lovers, and the theme of poets. While, however, with the anatomist, we regard with curiosity and wonder the mechanical structure of the eye; and with the painter, applaud its ineffable charm in the "human face divine," there is still a higher point of contemplation, which is not only compatible with the views and feelings of a Christian, but which leads him to adore the wonderful munificence and goodness of his Maker, in bestowing such a boon upon man, and especially in surrounding him with such and so many fitting objects for its exercise. Regarding the excellent faculty of vision as thus given for the purpose of recognizing the goodness, the omnipresence, and the glory of God, as these perfections are manifested

3786
372 (RECAP)

in that portion of his dominions with which we are acquainted ; I have, in the ensuing poem, attempted, with whatever success, to recal to the reader's mind, some of the more striking exhibitions of visible phenomena, more especially as they exist within the range of ordinary observation.

Having pursued the subject with great pleasure to my own mind, and having some knowledge of the train of thought sought to be pursued by cultivated minds generally, as well as some experience in poetical composition, I am not altogether without expectation, that I shall find readers among the pious and the amiable : more than this, I have hardly the presumption to hope. To those who may take exception at the arrangement or selection of my illustrations, I can only reply in the words of Dr. Johnson, when speaking of Thomson's Seasons, " Of many appearances subsisting at once, no rule can be given why one shall be mentioned before another."

It may be necessary to say one word in allusion to the vehicle which I have adopted for the exhibition of my sentiments. Some might have preferred regularly rhymed decasyllabic couplets ; and others a structure of versification more perfectly approaching the Miltonic standard. To either of these critical preferences, I have merely to oppose the remark,—that whether the following poem shall be applauded as a specimen of legitimate blank verse, or be denounced as a mere tissue of rhythmical prose, I shall be equally satisfied, provided the reader rises from, or returns to the perusal of the work, with an increased appreciation of the Pleasures of Sight.

J. H.

Sheffield Park, July, 1829.

ANALYTICAL TABLE OF CONTENTS.

I. THE subject introduced.—II. Invocation.—III. Local allusions—Sheffield—Pleasure derived from familiar landscape.—IV. All the senses good in themselves.—V. Feeling.—VI. Taste.—VII. Smelling.—VIII. Hearing, an extensively delightful faculty.—IX. Sight.—X. Situation, and beauty of the eye—Passions expressed thereby—Tears—Anatomical description—Jansen.—XI. Blindness occasioned by injury or disease—Milton.—XII. Optics—Galileo—Newton.—XIII. Light—The element of visible beauty—Colours—Rainbow—Some persons perceive no beauty in creation—Form—Motion a source of visual pleasure—Kaleidoscope—Changes observable in the sky.—XIV. The sea—an object of great interest to the eye—British shipping on the Thames—an imposing spectacle—Allusion to a storm at sea—Falconer's shipwreck—Wonders of the ocean imperfectly described.—XV. *Lusus naturæ*—Singular maritime phenomena in Southern latitudes—*Flath Iunis*—a striking exhibition of *fata morgana*—Contemplation of natural objects consistent with reason and piety.—XVI. Vast excursiveness of the faculty of sight—an auxiliary of the imagination—Man in Paradise—Sights vouchsafed to holy men of old—Striking spectacles recorded in the Bible—Description of the Levitical High Priest—Harbingers of the Gospel dispensation—Shepherds of Bethlehem—Simeon—God manifest in the flesh—Conversion of St. Paul—Constantine.—XVII. Ancient and modern wonders of the world—Egypt—no one can ever contemplate the entire universe—a sight of all earth's wonders impossible.—XVIII. Dress productive of pleasure to the eye.—XIX. Beauty—in what does it consist?—not in proportion—neither in fitness, utility—nor perfection of parts—Smoothness, an attribute of beauty—curved

lines—delicacy, grace, colour—objects not in themselves beautiful, produce delight by association—XX. Amusements of children—The butterfly chaser—various objects pleasingly affect different minds—The Rustic—Lover—Parent—Blind Father—the Patriot—the Pilgrim—sight of Jerusalem—Rome—Sights interesting to the Soldier—the Sportsman—XXI. Sensations of delight not confined to such spirit-stirring transactions—Picture of a Summer evening—Beauchief—Anna's well—Botany—A taste for pleasure derived from the contemplation of rural objects, no proof of an anti-social disposition—Poets have often drawn their choicest themes and illustrations from natural objects.—XXII. Objects interesting, as viewed in connexion with important transactions, or discoveries.—XXIII. Sights pleasing from association of ideas—Teresa's tree.—XXIV. The novelty, freshness, and satisfaction of youthful perceptions—we grow fastidious with age—many things, once deemed interesting and wonderful, appear so no longer, when contrasted with others.—XXV. Works of Art—York Minster—Godmundham.—XXVI. Remains of Workshop priory—Magnificent obsequies at the funeral of Thomas Lord Furnival—Lady Chapel.—XXVII. Castles in decay, picturesque objects—Conway Castle.—XXVIII. Time, the revealer and destroyer of terrestrial beauty—Christianity anticipates glorious days for religion, for patriotism, for philanthropy—Millenium—Reflections on the mutations of all that pleases the eye on earth—more glorious sights await the righteous hereafter—perfection of beauty in heaven—Conclusion.

THE
PLEASURES OF SIGHT.

I.

I SING the pleasures exquisite of sight !
The sources, the occasions, and the means,
Whence, and whereby the well-instructed eye
Draws bliss from visible beauty unalloy'd ;
Bliss, simple, while defined by things themselves,
Their shape and colour, motion, magnitude :
Or bliss compounded, when things manifold
Hold through the eye connection with the mind,
Or by association touch the heart.
—What wondrous scope for fancy in a theme
Which opens thus creation's glorious field !
How shall I venture such an enterprise ;
How execute aright the bold design !