

**AN OLYMPIC ROMANCE, ENTITLED THE
WHIM OF THE BRAIN; OR, THE FORCE OF
IMAGINATION. A SATIRE ON THE
WORLD, TO LASH THE VISE AND FOLLY OF
THE AGE; REPRESENTED BY EMBLEMATICAL
CHARACTERS FROM HEATHEN MYTHOLOGY**

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An Olympic Romance, Entitled the Whim of the Brain; Or, the Force of Imagination. A Satire on the World, to Lash the Vise and Folly of the Age; Represented by Emblematical Characters from Heathen Mythology by George Weguelin

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GEORGE WEGUELIN

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EXORDIUM.

HAVING been induced, from motives which particularly concerned my own personal honor, to publish, last year, a small volume of poems, entitled "THE ECCENTRIC," the flattering manner in which they were received, not only by my brother Eccentrics, but also by private Gentlemen, has prompted and emboldened me again to offer my humble Muse to public notice; trusting, at the same time, it will meet with a favourable reception; and that critics will not be too severe, but take the will for the deed; as the sole object is more to oblige and please my most dear and intimate friends, who have been very solicitous for its publication, than to gratify any vanity on my part, or pecuniary consideration derived therefrom.

I have the honor to subscribe myself,

With great diffidence and respect,

Your most obedient Servant,

THE AUTHOR.

*Grafton Street,
Fitzroy Square.*

✓

1830

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OR,
The Force of Imagination.

A SATIRE ON THE WORLD,
TO LASH THE VICE AND FOLLY OF THE AGE;

REPRESENTED BY EMBLEMATICAL CHARACTERS FROM
HEATHEN MYTHOLOGY.

BY
GEORGE WEGUELIN, GENT.



Satire's a pruning knife, so sharp and keen,
So fine its edge—it seldom should be seen,
Unless in language giving no offence
To learned men, or men of common sense:
In trope, similitude, or metaphor,
To make it palatable to the ear—
For, otherwise, it loses its effect—
Defeats the purpose meant it should correct.
Its object is to cut and clear away
The baneful weeds of vice in folly's day;
But yet with cautious hand, lest we destroy
The shoots of virtue, rising into joy.

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IMAGINATION.

ONE fine serene summer's evening, as the sun was fast approaching the horizon, and the heavens were beautifully illumined with a vermillion radiance, inviting man, for the benefit of health and relaxation, to quit the busy scenes of life for a while, and partake of the tranquillity and fragrance of the field. Being then at my country seat, inclination led me to take a solitary walk in my park; but whether to my grot, situate in a romantic labyrinth of evergreens, or otherwise to my sylvan temple, commanding from its eminence a delightful prospect of the surrounding country, I was undetermined; both being equally agreeable and desirable, as a solace either to a recluse for study, or a man of pleasure to relax. At length the latter predominated, and as I passed along over the velvet lawn to the grateful bowery shade of lofty elms, the songsters of the grove were rivalling each other in sweet notes of gratitude to their divine Benefactor and Protector, whilst the soft refreshing zephyrs played around my head,—waving in gentle motion the tender spray, and gave to the enamelled carpet of the mead the acme of perfection and salubrity. Bless me, said I,

What a lovely paradise is this,
To live on earth as tho' in bliss!

Meditating on the beauties of nature—the wonderful works of the Great Creator—who, by his mighty power, at his word, formed this grand stupendous fabric from out of chaos, for the benefit and pleasure of his too disobedient and discontented creature—man; who pays so little reverence and respect to his infinite wisdom and goodness; and who, so far from being dissatisfied and repining at his lot—placed as he is in a garden of abundance and felicity—ought to be most particularly thankful and happy, and extol and revere his Holy Name, for the innumerable blessings which he showers down from his celestial throne, in due season, for the relief and support of the universal globe.

These and other reflections threw me into a contemplative mood, and being arrived at my charming bower, which Flora had bedecked with her choicest favours, I sat down to enjoy the delightful landscape before me; when I became so enamoured with my rural incognitum, that I was almost determined in my mind to pass the remainder of my days in solitude. Where in a retreat so agreeable—

The man retired from worldly cares
Has nothing to alarm his fears.

But, gracious powers, how transient are the joys and pleasures of this life! And how frequently the expectations and senses of man take flight from those objects that lull and captivate the heart into a state of enthusiastic ecstasy of delight, to others as diametrically opposite as light is to darkness, or as the gay and bustling metropolis is to the most wild and uninhabited part of the universe.

Such indeed was the illusion that took possession of

my mental faculties; for, in an instant, as if by magic, my terrestrial pleasures were hurried away by an impetuous impulse of fancy, on the wings of Pegasus, from my peaceful bower to the renowned Mount of Olympus; where, methought, tired with my journey, I fell into a profound sleep. But my roving spirit did not long remain in a state of torpor; for my mind's eye, ever active, was immediately opened to scenes more brilliant and enchanting than had ever been witnessed by my natural ones. A new world now presented itself to my view, of the most splendid and magnificent description; in the centre of which stood, pre-eminently majestic, the kingdom of mighty Jove. Gods and Goddesses were promenading in groves of golden fruits, and gardens of delightful flowers. Other Deities were hurrying to and fro as though on missions of importance. Nymphs were bathing and sporting their angelic shapes in fountains of pure crystal. Sylvan Gods and Satyrs were piping and dancing in airy rings, whilst Bacchanals were carousing rich nectar that flowed in copious streams from rocks of alabaster. In brief, what with the voluptuous scene before me—the gay and festive song—the sprightly dance—and the melodious and transporting music—my enraptured heart was led captive, and convinced me I could be in no less a place than the happy Garden of Eden, or the celestial Fields of Elysium.

*As here absorb'd in Somnus' arms I lay,
Morpheus reign'd with visionary sway.*

Pleased with so extatic a spectacle, I became anxious to join those happy spirits; when, at that instant, I received a gentle tap on my right side, which roused me in my celestial delirium. Turning quickly round, to

see from whence it came, my astonishment may be more easily conceived than expressed, at the grand and awful phenomenon which struck my wondering sight. A lovely divinity, in the full bloom of youth, stood before me, clothed in a loose mantle, white as snow, down to her feet, which were shod with golden sandals, fastened by diamond latches. Her face resembled the sun in its full splendor; with beautiful auburn tresses, flowing in artless ringlets over her angelic shoulders, that were guarded with burnished armour to her waist. A golden helmet, surmounted with a rich plume of ostrich feathers, adorned her head; a brilliant shield blazed on her left arm; whilst her right hand held out to me a golden spear, as a token for my approach.—Reader, whatever thy sensations might be at such a moment, I know not; but as to my own, I became motionless and dumb. The sudden surprise occasioned by the sight of so majestic a personage—whose full penetrating azure eyes shot through me like lightning—had so powerful an effect over my whole system, that animation was suspended for a time, and I remained as immovable as a statue—cold and senseless:

I saw—but, like an image, inanimated stood:
The spectre chill'd my frame, and froze my blood.

I would have given the world, had it been in my power to have withdrawn from her presence. But, perceiving my fright or bashful timidity, in a soft and persuasive tone of voice, she said, "Fear not." At these words I took courage, and advanced, though with a trembling step, towards her: falling on my knees, I implored, in the most supplicating manner, her mercy and protection; when, taking me by the hand, with great affa-