

**EDUCATION, A
POEM: IN TWO
CANTOS. CANTO I**

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Education, a poem: in two cantos. Canto I by Gilbert West

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GILBERT WEST

**EDUCATION, A
POEM: IN TWO
CANTOS. CANTO I**

EDUCATION,
A
POEM:

In TWO CANTOS.

Written in Imitation of the STYLE and MANNER

OF

SPENSER'S FAIRY QUEEN.

By GILBERT WEST, *Esq;*

CANTO the First.

Unum studium vere liberale est, quod liberum facit. Hoc Sapientiae studium est, sublime, forte, magnanimum: Cætera pusilla & puerilia sunt.— Plus scire velle quàm sit satis intemperantiæ genus est. Quid, quòd ista liberalium Artium Consectatio molestos, verbosos, intempestivos, sibi placentes facit, & ideo non discentes necessaria, quia supervacua didicerunt. SEN. EP. 88.

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EDUCATION,

A

P O E M.

Inscrib'd to Lady LANGHAM,
Widow of Sir JOHN LANGHAM, Bt.

© 4-12-44 SKI

Goodly DISCIPLINE ! from Heav'n y-sprong !
O Parent of Science ! Queen of Arts refin'd !
To whom the *Graces*, and the *Nine* belong :
O bid those *Graces*, in fair Chorus join'd
With each bright *Virtue* that adorns the Mind !
O bid the *Muses*, thine harmonious Train,
Who by thy Aid erst humaniz'd Mankind,
Inspire, direct, and moralize the Strain,
That doth essay to teach thy Treasures how to gain !

A 2

And

And THOU, whose pious and maternal Care,
 The Substitute of heav'nly Providence,
 With tenderest Love my Orphan Life did rear,
 And train me up to manly Strength and Sense;
 With mildest Awe, and virtuous Influence,
 Directing my unpractic'd wayward Feet
 To the smooth Walks of Truth and Innocence;
 Where Happiness heart-felt, Contentment sweet,
 Philosophy divine aye hold their blest Retreat,

THOU, most belov'd, most honour'd, most rever'd!
 Accept this Verse, to thy large Merit due!
 And blame me not, if by each Tye endear'd,
 Of Nature, Gratitude, and Friendship true,
 The whiles this *moral Thesis* I pursue,
 And trace the *Plan* of goodly † *Nurture* o'er,
 I bring thy *modest Virtues* into View;
 And proudly boast that from *thy* precious Store,
 Which erst enrich'd my Heart, I drew this sacred Lore.

And

† *Nurture*, Education.

And thus, I ween, thus shall I best repay
The valued Gifts, thy careful Love bestow'd ;
If imitating THEE, well as I may,
I labour to diffuse th' important Good ;
'Till this great Truth by all be understood ;
“ That all the pious Duties which we owe,
“ Our Parents, Friends, our Country and our God ;
“ The Seeds of every Virtue here below,
“ From *Discipline* alone, and early *Culture* grow.



CANTO



CANTO I.

ARGUMENT.

*The Knight, as to † PÆDIA'S House
 He his young Son conveys,
 It staid by CUSTOM; with him fights,
 And his vain Pride dismays.*

A Gentle KNIGHT there was, whose noble Deeds
 O'er *Fairy Land* by Fame were blazon'd round:
 For War like Enterprize, and sage † areeds
 Among the chief alike was he renown'd ;
 Whence with the Marks of highest Honours crown'd
 By GLORIANA, in Domestick Peace,
 That Port, to which the Wife are ever bound,
 He anchor'd was, and chang'd the tossing Seas
 Cf bustling busy Life, for calm sequester'd Ease.

II. There

* *Pædia* is a Greek Word, signifying *Education*.
 † *Areeds*, Counsels.

II.

There in domestick Virtue rich and great
 As erst in publick, 'mid his wide Domain,
 Long in primæval Patriarchal State,
 The Lord, the Judge, the Father of the Plain,
 He dwelt ; and with him, in the golden Chain
 Of wedded Faith y-link'd, a *Matron* sage
 Aye dwelt ; sweet Partner of his Joy and Pain,
 Sweet Charmer of his Youth, Friend of his Age,
 Skill'd to improve his Bliss, his Sorrows to assuage.

III.

From this fair Union, not of fordid Gain,
 But Merit simular and mutual Love,
 True Source of lineal Virtue, sprung a Train
 Of Youths and Virgins ; like the beauteous Grove,
 Which round the Temple of *Olympick Jove*,
 Begirt with youthful Bloom the † *Parent Tree*,
 The *sacred Olive* ; whence old *Elis* wove
 Her verdant Crowns of peaceful Victory,
 The * *Guerdons* of bold Strength, and swift Activity.

† *Parent Tree, the sacred Olive*] This Tree grew in the *Altis*, or sacred Grove of *Olympick Jupiter* at *Olympia*, having, as th' *Eleians* pretended, been originally planted there by *Hercules*. It was esteem'd sacred, and from that were taken the *Olympick Crowns*. See *Pausanias. Elic.* and the *Dissertation on the Olym. Games*.

* *Guerdons*, Rewards.

IV.

So round their noble Parents goodly rose
 These generous Scyons ; they with watchful Care
 Still, as the swelling Passions gan disclose
 The Buds of future Virtues, did prepare
 With prudent Culture the young Shoots to rear :
 And aye in this endearing pious Toil
 They by a † *Palmer* sage instructed were,
 Who from deep Thought and studious Search erewhile
 Had learnt to mend the Heart, and till the Human Soil.

V.

For by celestial *Wisdom* whilom led
 Through all th' Apartments of th' immortal Mind,
 He view'd her secret Stores, and mark'd the † *Sted*
 To Judgment, Wit, and Memory assign'd ;
 And how Sensation and Reflection join'd
 To fill with Images her darksome *Grotte*,
 Where variously disjointed or combin'd,
 As Reason, Fancy, or Opinion wrought,
 Their various Masks they play'd, and fed her pensive Thought.

VI. *Alfe*.

† *Palmer*, Pilgrim. The Person here signified is Mr. *Locke*, characteriz'd by his Works.

† *Sted*, Place, Station.