

THE VISION OF MIRZAH

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The Vision of Mirzah by Joseph Addison

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JOSEPH ADDISON

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OF MIRZAH**



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BY JOSEPH ADDISON

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*From the edition of Addison's Works
Printed by John Baskerville, Birmingham
Mdcclxi*

HENRY MORSE & STEPHENS

BY WILLIAM
STUART

JOSEPH ADDISON was born May 1st, 1672, at *Biographical*
Milston, near Ambresbury, Wiltshire, England. Note

His father, the Reverend Launcelot Addison, was Dean of Litchfield. He received his early education at schools in the vicinity of his home and afterward was sent to Charterhouse, where the memorable intimacy between him and Steele first began. At the early age of fifteen he entered Queen's College, Oxford, and when he had been there about two years, his remarkable skill in Latin verse procured him a demyship at Magdalen. He obtained his degree of Master of Arts in 1693 and a fellowship five years later.

During his university career Addison devoted himself to the study of the Latin poets and at that time he had some idea of making poetry his life work. It was through his verse that he attracted the attention of Lord Somers and Charles Montagu, whose influence secured for him a pension of 300 pounds a year from the Crown to enable him to travel abroad. In 1699 he set out from

*Biographical Oxford for France, remaining there until the end
Note of 1700, after which he passed twelve months in
Italy. He visited Germany prior to his return to
England towards the end of 1703.*

The death of King William in 1702 and the consequent fall of Addison's friends from power deprived him of his pension and he was without public employment until late in 1704, when he was given the position of Commissioner of Appeals in Excise. Soon after that he achieved political distinction, being appointed Under Secretary of State in 1706 and, two years later, Chief Secretary for Ireland. After Queen Anne's death in 1714 he was made Secretary to the Lord Justices and the Regency. In August, 1716, he married Charlotte, Countess Dowager of Warwick, and in April of the following year was named by King George as one of his principal Secretaries of State. He died June 17th, 1719, at Holland House and was buried in Poets' Corner in Westminster Abbey.

Addison has enriched English literature by his Biographical poems, his plays, his "Italian Travels" and by the Note immortal papers which have crowned the "Tatler," the "Spectator" and the "Guardian" with lasting fame. His style has been held up as a model of classical English; witness the testimony of Macaulay, who says that in delicacy of wit, fertility of imagination and grace of expression his best essays approach near to absolute perfection.

