Their volant fingers o'er the chorded lyre,
With modulating touch the artists ply;
Pursuing still to animate defire,
Strains that in thrilling undulations die.

And every cheek with deep suffusion glow'd,
Denoting thought inflam'd, and troubled breast,
And passion in seducing sighs avow'd
Mutual, yet still by decency represt.

But foon excess to madding riot led, Ensuing meaning jest, and licence bold; Till comely Order from the banquet sled, Asham'd the lustful orgies to behold.

A youth exalted high above the rest,
In bad pre-eminence conspicuous shone!
And blind submission to his lewd behest,
Unrivall'd lewdness from them all had won.

And deeply was he skill'd in wanton lore,
With fertile thought suggesting every art,
To make impurer, fires impure before,
Tainting at once the manners and the heart.

Pleasing proportion, youthful Beauty's aid,
And bland complacency and winning smile,
And wit dissuffice tempting to persuade,
Maintain'd his power, and held him in the toil.

Ahl

Ambitious Cæsar saw thee fair,
(What will not proud Ambition dare!)
And strait he courts thee as his own,
Fond to possess thy splendid throne.
Albion submits, tho not to chains,
But ever uncontroul'd th' imperial virgin reigns.

The Roman eagle shrunk his head,
Before th' invited Saxons sled;
Aspiring nations shook her state,
(Dread consequence of being great)
Wild Heptarchy began her reign,
Till overaw'd she yields her scepter to the Dane.

Awhile in ignorance she lay,
The pagan worlds obscur'd her day:
The Goths, a wild barbarian train,
And savage Vandals, sweep her plain:
Soon of herself thro' clouds she shone,
And brighten'd once again a strong meridian sun

The royal Alfred, greatly born,
Britain to govern and adorn,
His kingdom's honour, subjects' good,
This well preserv'd, that understood,
Courted Astræa to his throne;
Oppression sunk disarm'd, nor more his people groan.

(166)

The happy prince nor rested here;
His ships to different regions steer,
And in Britannia's lap unlade
The sweet reward of gainful trade;
Far distant India's burning shore.
Beheld his stoating strength, and wonder'd at his power.

Commerce advance! by heaven defign'd
To polish, and enrich mankind;
Old Maja's daughter, Albion's care,
Advance, and breathe thy native air!
Here dwell, and fix thy sweet resort,
Nations shall hither slock, to pay their eager court.

Thou gavest to hidden knowledge birth;

By thee, the limits of the earth

Greatly enlarg'd, show'd worlds unknown,

The frigid and the torrid zone;

Guided and influenc'd by thee,

We first were taught to learn divine Astronomy.

To thee her filk rich Persia brings,
The proud magnificence of kings,
Arabia's spice and India's mine,
Peru's vast golden womb is thine;
Behold the costly pillars rise,
And swell thy losty seats, and temples to the skies.

(167)

Seated along th' Aonian spring,
No more the vocal Sisters sing:
Oxford, the seat of learning now,
Crowns with her bay Apollo's brow;
Again resressing Science streams,
Pæonian Phæbus hence, sends forth his warmer beams.

Next Cambridge rear'd her awful head,
Whence Arts from Danish arms had sled;
Virgil and Homer here retir'd,
And pleas'd her studious sons inspir'd;
Philosophy shone heavenly bright,
The thickening clouds dispers'd, and all was wondrous light,

Favour'd of God, here Newton saw
Errors obscuring Nature's law;
He saw, and clear'd the gloomy way,
And shew'd mankind eternal day:
He shew'd, and worlds beheld with joy
Labours which distant time nor envy shall destroy.

Innately bright the diamond shines,
Tho' deep conceal'd in Indian mines;
The lapidary's nicer art
Luxuriant slames on every part;
Till then, salse jewels we admire,
Behold their tinsel blaze, and artisicial fire.

Priests thus with shew enslav'd the mind,
To shew, the human eye inclin'd;
To papal power our princes bend,
Nor see the errors they defend,
While monkish artifices long

Dazzled implicit worlds, and led a bigot throng.

Religion trembled at their crimes,
But pleas'd, forefaw succeeding times;
Succeeding times when she alone
Shou'd govern Britain's royal throne;
With undisturb'd and downy rest
Baffled the sons of Rome, but all her children blest,

Edward the happy theme began,
A glorious and immortal plan!
Skies azure-opening greet his day,
The Reformation points the way;
By Reason and by Virtue led,
Behold her beauteous form, and mark her solemn tread!

Not so imperious Mary sways,

Blind zeal again obscur'd her blaze,

Disgrac'd, Religion mournful stood,

While Persecution smil'd in blood:

Heaven saw, enrag'd, the horrid deed,

Shorten'd her tyrant reign, no more her subjects bleed.

Eliza shone serenely bright,

And on her throne restected light;

Her royal brother's will maintain'd:

For this, the virgin princess reign'd,

Reign'd most supremely wise and great,

And neighb'ring realms preserv'd, and sav'd her sinking state.

When Spanish sleets her coasts alarm,
Eliza rais'd her mighty arm,
Her people's darling, she secure,
Smiling (of easy conquest sure),
Quell'd like a Jove their giant rage,
Her thunders burst aloud, nor dare the soe engage.

As when the sun darts forth his beams,
Whence trembling light resulgent streams,
And kindly gladdens for a while,
Alike adorns, and aids our toil,
A sudden cloud o'erspreads his rays,
Destroys our flattering hopes, and dims our golden days;

So when eclips'd Eliza's reign,
And heaven recall'd the faint again,
Too happy to be long admir'd,
With her our short-liv'd bliss retir'd:
Darkness returns, the light disdains
To shine on a foul series of inglorious reigns.

(170)

Thou awful shade of Pope, inspire,

And give expression to my lyre!

Lend harmony to every line,

And teach my verse to slow like thine!

Maria's wonderous charms I'd sing,

Would'st thou, lov'd poet, distate to the silver string.

Her William saw Britannia's grief,
And swift he slew to her relief,
With noble resolution draws
The sword vindictive in her cause;
The glorious cause demands his sword,
Religion once again, and Liberty restor'd.

With horror he beheld the state
Oppress'd beneath the papal weight;
He kindled not War's siercer stame,
But like a guardian angel came,
(Britannia's best and surest friend)
To save the sading honours of a groaning land.

The grand event, the bold design,
Th' immortal task, Nassau, were thine;
The British lion, rous'd by thee,
First broke his chain, and dar'd be free;
The royal line of great Nassau
Was sent mankind by heaven to keep the world in awe.

The dark horizon clear'd again,
And shone propitious on his reign;
Fair Liberty assum'd her seat,
And crush'd Oppression at her seet:
Religion trumph'd, Albion smiles,
Once more the first of states, again the queen of isses.

Inspir'd by heaven, the wise Nassau

Her rising greatness well foresaw

Rising from royal Brunswick's care,

Brunswick by senates mark'd his heir;

Britons rejoicing shout applause,

By him secur'd our faith, our property, our laws.

But first our powerful realms obey,
Illustrious Anne, thy easy sway.
Check'd by thy power, insulting Gaul
Beheld with grief his legions fall:
They fell, for Malbro' drew the sword,
Pre eminent in arms, victorious, and ador'd.

Gallia beholds with treacherous eyes
Sophia's high-born offspring rife
To glory, empire, and renown,
Deck'd with Britannia's glittering crown:
Again she dar'd the isle engage,
And stir intestine war, and raise seditious rage.

The rancorous hate of France in vain
Threatens Mavortian Brunswick's reign;
Guardian of liberty and peace,
He bids rebellious Discord cease;
The injur'd monarch soon forgives,
And by his nod, again th' offending rebel lives.

With distant conquests he extends
The throne his royal son ascends;
Imperial dignity and grace
Serenely smile upon his face:
Brunswick to martial honour bred,
Governs, by Virtue counsell'd, and by Glory led,

Trade, Arts, and Science, flourish here,
And bless each fair revolving year;
Gay smiling Plenty reigns around,
And golden harvests load the ground:
So Liberty, and George, and Britons should be crown'd:

While Brunswick Europe's rights maintains,
And fights her cause on Flandria's plains,
Proud Gallia, treacherously brave,
Calls coward Treason from her cave,
Tho' Agincourt and Blenheim tell,
How all her valour sunk, and boasting heroes fell.

Fam'd Dettingen still reeks with blood,
Where like a God great Brunswick stood;
Triumphant Fame on silken wing
Rode smiling on before the king;
Like Mars he shook the pointed spear,
The Gauls retreat, and all their battle shrunk with fear.

Tremendous Death and Horror stride

Close by intrepid William's side:

William, he bled, and soldiers griev'd;

"Revenge (they cry) the wound receiv'd"!

Bright Venus mourn'd her savourite care,

And quick she bid her nymphs the healing drugs prepare.

The Cyprian goddess stood confest,
As when Æneas' wound she drest:
Her weeping nymphs around her wait,
Impatient for the prince's fate;
With healing herbs, and balmy sweets,
The Dionæan queen the cannons rage deseats.

Who are these base, these dastard foes,
That dare their country's laws oppose!
Their lives and fortunes not their own,
But given in mercy from the throne:
Do they, ungrateful men, presume
To act the scheme of France, or play the part of Rome?
Discord

(174)

Discord and Horror stalk along,
With pale Rebellion in the throng;
Bellona stains the purple field,
And Mars displays his brazen shield;
William his brother-god appears,
To curb the traitorous war, and ease Britannia's fears.

He comes, the hero comes, and strait
Conscious Rebellion knows her fate;
His troops, with manly rage inspir'd,
Rush on, by his example fir'd;
His name strikes terror to the soe,
Precipitate they sty, nor wait th' impending blow.

Brave Huske and Hawley strive in vain
To animate th' embattled plain;
Train'd up in arms, the warriors fly
From rank to rank, resolv'd to die,
Or conquer, in their country's cause;
But heaven to Cumberland decrees the crown'd applause.

Hence worthless slaves, and wear the chain
Of punick France, and haughty Spain;
Blinded by Rome, your ruin court,
And be your very masters' sport;
Like Cain roam, of bliss bereft,
No clime, no country yours, no sriendly shelter left.

(175)

Shall Gauls infult the wide domain,
When Neptune views them with disdain?
Shall they with dark invasive schemes
(The mere result of idle dreams)
Threaten Britannia's guarded shore,
Nor dread the angry god, nor fear his cannons' roar?

Proud boasters hence, and learn to know,
Our Albion dreads no foreign soe;
Her sleets but ask propitious gales,
But ask, and Conquest swells her sails;
France strikes the slag, our colours near,
Whitens her golden slowers, and shrinks with coward fear.

Britons, united by their laws,

Can never swerve from Freedom's cause;

Blest in great George, we guard his reign,

And Gallic insolence disdain!

Well may we guard th' imperial throne,

Which every Briton's voice, and Virtue made his own.

Calm as a god, behold him there,

Express his soft paternal care;

Mercy sits mourning on his sace,

To see severer Law take place;

And whilst rebellious subjects die,

Sighs swell his royal breast, and tears his pitying eye.

(176)

Such Brunswick is who rules our land?

Such is the monarch we defend!

Blessing and bless'd! (a mutual good,

By Britons only understood)

Late may he England's scepter wield,

Protest our laws at home, and guard us in the sield!

A long illustrious race of kings
From Frederick and Augusta springs;
This Brunswick views with joyous eye,
And knows in them he ne'er shall die;
He sees his royal offspring smile,
The grace of suture worlds, and honour of their isse.