

Poems

Poems on several occasions.

On the death of an Infant dying
of a cough. ^{Milton} 17 when he wrote this.
("For since grim Rhyml") Boreas on
Rhyml. See Lempriere. also. Brithys
and Erectheus. ("and childless eld") eld
is old age - used by Spenser, and old
writers. ("For to Apobro") Apobro slew
Hyacinthus by accident playing at
quoits, and after changed him into
a flower of the same name. ("that
high first moving sphere") The primum
mobile "that first moved" as he
calls it in Paradise Lost. ("Or did
of late earth's sons") For when the
giants invaded Heaven, the deities
fled & concealed themselves in various

shapes. ("That just maid") Proteus
or the Goddess of Justice who of-
fended with the crimes of men
forsook the earth. ("On drive away
the Haughtiness of Justice") At this
time there was a great plague
in London.

2^d.

At a vacation Exercise in the
college. when he was 19.

("Yet I had rather") It appears by
this address of Milton to his
native language, that he had even
when so young the ambition to
think of writing an epic poem.
("Such as the wise Demodocus")
Alluding to the 8th book of the

Odyssey, where glorious enter-
tains plytes, and the celebrated
musician L. Joch, Demodocus,
sings the loves of Mars & Venus
and the destruction of Troy; and
plytes and the rest are affected
in the manner described.

On the Morning of Christ's
Nativity. composed. 1629. 21
yrs old.

("From out his secret altar touch
with hallowed fire") Alluding to
6th chap. Isaiah. 6. 7. v. "Then flew
one of the Seraphim unto me, ha-
ving a live coal in his hand, which
he had taken with the tongs from off
the altar. And he laid it upon my
mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched

thy lips, and thine iniquity is taken
away, and thy sin is purged: ("But
when of old the sons of morning
sang") 30th chap. Job. 7th v. "when
the morning stars sang together, &
all the sons of God shouted for
joy". ("Apoth from his throne Can
no more divine") But author builds
here upon the common hypothesis
of the oracles being struck dumb
at the coming of Christ. and here
he alludes to the story of Augustus
Caesar's consulting the Pythia or
Priestess of Apollo, who tho' reign
after him; and her answering that
an Hebrew boy had commanded
her to leave that temple and return
to Heb. ("A voice of weeping heard")

Referring to the story of a voice
proclaiming that the great Pan
was dead, and immediately was
heard a great groaning and lam-
-entation. ("Lars and Lemures")
Household Gods, and Night Spirits.
("Flamens") Priests. ("with that
twice battered God") Sargon who was
twice battered by Samson 16th chap.
Indes and by the ark of God 1st
Sam: 5th ("the dog Anubis") mentioned
in the Ovid. See Lempriere. ("The
unshowered grass") There being no
rain in Egypt, but the country
made fruitful with the overflow-
-ings of the Nile. ("Bright-harvest
Orest, accorded. Harrefied is
used for armour in our transla-

tion of the Bible. 1 Kings 20 chap.
11th v. 13th chap. Exodus, 18 v.

The Passion. composed after,
and probably won after, the Poë
on the Nativity.

("Lord air the rest Bremona's
Trump doth sound") Vida, who
was a native of Bremona, and
he alludes to his poem. Christia-
dos Libri &c. ("That whirled the
prophet up at Chebar flood") As
the prophet Ezechiel saw the
vision of the 4 wheels, and of
the glory of God at the river
Chebar.

See the account in the story
of Tobias Horton.

Arcaides — no notes. probably
written while he lived with his
father at Horton, and before
Comus.

Sonnet To the Lady Margaret
Ley.

She was the daughter of Sir James
Ley, whose learning and abilities
raised him, to be made Baron
of Marlborough, and Lord High
Treasurer, and Lord President of
the Council to King James 1st.
He died in an advanced age,
and Milton attributes his death
to the breaking of the parlia-
ments. He left several sons
and daughters, and the Lady

Margaret was married to Captain Hobson of the He of Wight. In the year 1643 Milton used frequently to visit this lady and her husband.

To Mr. Lawrence.

This Mr. Lawrence was the son of the President of Cromwell's council.

To Cynac Skinner.

Cynac Skinner was the son of William Skinner Esq.; his mother was Bridget one of the daughters of Sir Edward Coke. he was scholar to Milton.

Sycidas.

This poem was occasioned by the death of Edward King, son of Sir John King Secretary for Ireland, a fellow whegman and intimate friend of Milton, who, as he was going to visit his relations in Ireland, was drowned. This poem was written when the author was almost 29 years old.

("Joy never here") That is never dry, never withered, being one of the ever-greens.

("without the need") without the reward.

("That from beneath the fount")

re do the Spring") He means Hip-
po crene, a fountain conse-
crated to the Muses on Mount He-
licon, on the side of which
was an altar of Heliconian
Jupiter; this altar Milton calls
the seat of Jupiter, in imita-
tion of the Ancients; so Virgil
calls the temple of Venus E-
rycina on the summit of
Mount Eryx in Sicily, her seat.
("His westring wheel") Drawing
toward the west. A word that
occurs in Chaucer. ("And old
Samaetas") It is probable this
was for William Chappell, who

had been tutor to them both at
Cambridge, and was afterwards
Bishop of Cork and Ross in
Ireland. ("The steen where your
old Bards the famous Druids
lie") this steen where the Druids
lie" is a place called Henf y
Indrion, in the mountains of
Denbighshire, or Druid's stones
because of the stone chests or
coffins, and other monuments,
supposed to have been of the
Druids. ("Mona") the ile of An-
glesea, or Thady is land, as it
was called by the ancient ^{Britons} ~~Britons~~
And Sever is the river Dee, the

Meaning of the word Deva is by some
supposed to be, divine water. So
Spenser calls it. ("Amaryllis") a
country last mentioned by Theocritus
and Virgil ("Inaera") mentioned
in Virgil's 3^d. Eclogue. ("Querdon")
prize, reward, recompense. ("Arethusa")
of Sicily, the country of Theocritus,
"Mincius" the river of Mantua,
Virgil's country. ("The herald of
the sea") Triton. ("Hippotades")
Eolus the son of Hippotas, called
safe from foreboding the wea-
ther. ("Panope") a sea nymph;
the word signifies pure calm &
tranquillity. ("Heat Camus, reve-
rend sire") The river Cam

("The hawk star") the dog star.
("The tufted crow tree.") The hyacinth.

Mythology fifth book
Paradise Lost.

Astarte.

Who was Astarte?

A powerful divinity of Syria,
the same as the Venus of the
Greeks.

Where had she a temple?

At Hierapolis in Syria, which
was served by 300 priests, who
were always employed in offering
sacrifices.

How was she represented in medals,
with a long habit, and a man-

tucked up on the left arm; the
had one hand stretched forward,
and held in the other a crooked
staff in the form of a cross.

whose son was Osiris?

Son of Jupiter & Io. he was king
of Egypt, he took care to civilize
his subjects, and he taught them a-
griculture.

After he had accomplished a reform
at home, what did he do?

He resolved to civilize other parts
of the earth.

To whose care did he leave his kingdom
To Isis, and her minister, Hermes, or
Mercury.

What countries did he pass through?

Ethiopia, Arabia, and part of Asia
& Europe.

What awaited him on his return?
His Brother Typhon had raised an
insurrection, and he murdered Osiris.

What did he do with the body?

He cut it in pieces, and divided
it among the associates of his
guilt. According to Plutarch, he

shut up his brother in a coffin
and threw him into the Nile. The

enquiries of Isis discovered the
body on the coast of Phenicia

but Typhon stole it, and then
divided the body. Isis with her

son Osiris defeated Typhon. She

recovered the body, and she made

as many Statues of wax, as there
were pieces of the body.

What did she do with these pieces?

She summoned all the priests in
her dominions, one by one, and
gave them each a statue, and the
engaged them to pay divine honors
to Osiris. They were told to choote
an animal to represent the di-
-vinity of Osiris, and to pay it the
greatest reverence. They chose the
ox, as he had instructed his subjects
in cultivating the ground.