**RI MS HD/13/D**

**RI MS HD/13/D, front cover**

Mem. – M[superscript]r[/superscript] W.

M[superscript]r[/superscript] [unclear]Sheddon[/unclear]

Mem[superscript]m[/superscript] – [unclear]T[/unclear]. [unclear]H[/unclear]

1800

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**RI MS HD/13/D, p. 01**

The Child of Genius.

[Horizontal rule]  
Few were my days of sunshine cried the sage  
Tumultuous pass the thoughts of former years  
Across my soul & sweet it is to think  
Of dangers past & sweeter still to see  
The closing day of life in sunshine

clad.   
And fair with  
Thou ocean dark & terrible in storms  
My eye is closed upon thee, & I view  
The light of other days, the sunbeams <dance>

Upon thy waves: the purple clouds of morn  
Hang on thy rocks resplendent.

~~The days of yo~~uth

~~Crowd rapid on my mind & with them bring~~  
~~The varying scenes of rapture & delight~~

Scenes beloved  
Scenes of my youth, ~~awakened into l~~ife  
~~What varying thoughts what mingled feel~~ings

~~crowd~~

Within my throbbing breast  
Ye have awakened rapture. ~~Many days~~  
~~Of storms & sunshine~~ Round me crowd  
Tumultuous passions, all the joys & cares  
Of infancy. The glittering dreams of youth  
Ambitious & energic. –  
Here my eyes

**RI MS HD/13/D, p. 02**

First opened on the daylight. ~~hide~~ my ears  
First heard the gently soothing sounds  
Here first a mothers care <of love> ~~attuned my~~ <awoke my>  
~~life~~ sense  
To ~~pleasure~~. – <mild enjoyment.>  
~~Here first I wood thee~~  
Here first I wood thee Nature  
in the forms  
Of majesty & freedom & thy charms  
Soft mingling with the sports of infancy  
Its kindling social passions & its wants  
Intense & craving kindled into one  
Supreme emotion. – ~~Hence arose to life~~  
~~Sublimest thoughts a living energy.~~  
Hence awoke to life  
~~The sense of beauty~~  
sublimest thoughts a living energy.  
That still within my bosom ~~throbs~~ <glows> & still  
Its objects varying. has impell’d my mind.  
To various action.

[Horizontal rule]  
~~Many day~~s are past  
~~Since last my wet eyes saw the~~  
~~Moonbeams gild Beloved science~~  
~~Thy whitely foaming waves~~  
~~And I am altered.~~

**RI MS HD/13/D, p. 03**

3  
Here my opening mind: –

~~First~~ In the ~~mingled~~ <expressive> harmony of voice  
And speaking countenace; ~~expressive~~ <astonished> read  
Another’s thoughts. –

[Horizontal rule]

~~Ambitious then~~

~~confiding in my powers I ev~~

Are past O scene beloved <many days> since last my eyes  
Many days are past, beloved scene  
Since first my – Many days are past  
Beloved scene since last my wet eyes saw  
The moonbeams gild thy whitely foaming waves.  
Ambitious then confiding in her powers  
Spurning her prison onward flew my soul  
To mingle with her kindred, In the breeze  
That wafts upon its wings futurity  
To hear the voice of praise. –  
And Not in vain  
Have those high hopes existed ~~not in vain~~

Not in vain  
~~Amidst the change of life my soul~~  
~~Has ai~~m’d  
The dew of labor has oppressed my brow.  
On which the rose of pleasure never glowd.

For I have tasted of that sacred stream

**RI MS HD/13/D, p. 04**

Here thro’ the trembling moonshine of the grove  
My earliest lays were wafted by the breeze  
And here my kindling spirit learnt to trace  
The mystic laws. from whose high energy  
The moving atoms in eternal change  
Still rise to animation. –  
Not like the bubble on the sea of life  
That rises glitters with the sunbeam  
& there dies for ever  
No rose of pleasure e’er has crowned my brows

Nor have I listened to the golden harp  
Of pale eyed indolence. –  
I have not lived  
A burthen of the earth

[Horizontal rule]  
Of ~~novel~~ science whose delicous water flows  
From Nature’s bosom. – I have felt the warm  
The gentle influence of congenial souls  
Whose kindred hopes have cheered me.  
Who have taught  
My irritable spirit how to bear  
Injustice. ~~How to scorn the stings of those~~

**RI MS HD/13/D, p. 05**

5

How the novel sense  
~~Of beauty wakened in oer my frame~~ <~~soul~~> ~~expanding,~~ know  
Of beauty thrilling through my new tuned frame  
Called into being novel  
~~The gnats of summer’s days~~.   
and oppression  
Who have given  
New plumes of rapture to my soaring wing

~~Whose flight is yet unbounded.~~  
When ruffled by the ~~tempest or~~

humid breath of storms.  
Beloved rocks, thou ocean white with mist  
Once more with joy I view ye.  
And once more, with heart felt rapture  
To my long lost home. I speed to mingle tears  
Of love, to feel the glow of warm affection  
And to view again the rosy light  
That shone upon my youth  
Once more ye live upon my humid eyes  
Once more ye waken in my throbbing

breast  
The sympathies of nature. No I go  
Once more to visit my remembered home  
With heart felt felt rapture, there to mingle tears

**RI MS HD/13/D, p. 06**

Of purest love. To feel the exstatic glow  
Of warm affection & again to view  
The rosy light that shone upon my <youth>

**RI MS HD/13/D, p. 07**

7

– The solitary. –

Aithe was mine & I was happy  
that feeling which had been attached  
to the beautiful & ~~sublime~~ <majestic> in nature  
that ever living & sublime energy which  
had still illumined my days which  
had still burnt in my bosom  
the source of an immortal activity  
was now increased & modified by  
new enjoyments – One tribe of perceptions  
occupied the whole of my attention  
~~And Aithe~~ How often when satisfied  
with pleasurable impressions when tired  
even by the variety of present  
enjoyment in the company of my  
beloved. How often have I retired  
amidst forests shut out of  
man inattentive to nature &  
occupied only by her idea –  
How was this said I to myself  
is it not that hope that intellectual  
feeling is sometimes even more  
pleasurable than enjoyment, or rather

**RI MS HD/13/D, p. 08**

do not all the habits of thinking  
& acting in human life render  
an alternation of the two  
necessary – Then would  
the recollections of former  
days crowd upon my mind  
connected with all the repressed  
& modified feelings which had  
been the motives of my  
actions, Amidst the delightful  
scenery of the wye, I was  
sometimes for a short time  
a physiopatheist, In my  
Library I was sometimes  
ambitious & the voice of fame  
stole to me in my dreams  
Amidst the moonbeams & the  
blue sky I was sometimes  
devout – but these transitions  
of passion were momentary &  
still I burned to Aithe. –

**RI MS HD/13/D, p. 09**

9  
Our actions are neither the results  
of feelings or opinions they  
are modified by them both  
but are produced by habits. –

[Horizontal rule]  
July 11. To day for the first time  
in my life I have had a  
[deletion][unclear]xxxxxx[/unclear][/deletion] <distinct> sympathy with nature  
I was lying on the top of a  
rock in leeward, the wind  
was high & every thing in  
motion, the branches of an oak  
above were waving & murmuring  
to the breeze, yellow clouds  
deepened by grey at the base  
were <rapidly> floating over the western  
hills the whole sky was  
in motion, the yellow stream

Agitated by the breeze  
below me was likewise flowing  
is this analogy? – Every

**RI MS HD/13/D, p. 10**

seemed alive & myself part of

the series of visible impression  
I should have felt pain in  
tearing a leaf from one of  
the trees – deeply  
& intimately connected are all  
our ideas of motion & life –  
& – this probably from  
very early associations  
how different is the idea  
of life in a [unclear]philsiologist[/unclear]  
& a poet.  
how often have I been [unclear]amaxxx[/unclear] by  
the arts –  
The court was at this time engaged  
in a negociation with England  
My acquaintance with that country  
was known to [unclear]Passan[/unclear] I was chosen  
amongst others to form the embassy  
I was destined once again to cross  
the blue ocean. – Had I not been

**RI MS HD/13/D, p. 11**

11  
plunged in the bosom of enjoyment  
this destination would have been  
pleasing to me. For a moment my  
former ambition was awakened &  
the flush of rapture warmed my

cheek on the thoughts of  
that people who had crowned   
my brows with the laurels  
of science & who had listened  
to the wild & simple harp  
of a son of the mountains –  
But this feeling was transient  
love domestic tenderness & the  
long train of ideas connected with  
hopes [unclear]laxxxted[/unclear] to one spot resumed  
the empire of the mind. –  
I parted from aithe with sorrow  
I had none of those presentiments  
which the vulgar upon reflecting  
on the state of their minds before  
an event & after imagine they

**RI MS HD/13/D, p. 12**

have perceived when they modify  
& mingle their feelings. –  
The voyage was like most of my  
voyages uninteresting, bodily &  
mental pain coexisted. & I made  
no reflections of sufficient  
importance to produce effects upon  
individuals in general. I recollect  
that time appeared to me longer  
than usually doubtless because  
I connected a greater number  
of terms ~~with~~ expressing time  
with the passing ideas / though  
afterwards it appeared to me  
shorter than before because it  
was connected with no strong feelings

**RI MS HD/13/D, p. 13**

13  
Aiga was lying on his couch his  
cheeks were pale & thin, his nose  
pointed; but his dark eyes  
glistened with all their original  
fire, a transient flush of  
rapture passed over his cheek  
as he saw me approach  
his bed & whilst I felt  
the hard grasp of his moist

hand, I saw tears trickle down  
his cheek. – We were silent  
it was with difficulty that  
I could repress my tears, the  
pure sympathies of friendship  
are perhaps infinitely stronger  
than any there not only  
direct association tends to  
give them strength: but a  
thousand nameless sympathies  
of analogy, organs similarity  
of mind, of character all  
combine to give them strength  
& energy. –

**RI MS HD/13/D, p. 14**

My friend when we met last  
we were both in health & vigor  
our constitutions seemed to enfold  
no seeds of diseases & our  
~~org~~ organs seemed fitted for the  
strong developement of pleasurable  
feeling. – Behold me on  
the couch of death my senses  
lost, my organs falling  
towards that state in which  
they will resolve into their  
primitive atoms. still is  
my mind unconquered, still  
all my passions all my  
energies are alive, still are  
all my trains of thinking  
compleat, philosophy has  
warmed me through life

on the bed of death She  
does not desert her disciple.  
The frost of the grave can

**RI MS HD/13/D, p. 15**

15  
never chill those <burning> energies connected  
with the thoughts of future  
existence. – I feel & I believe  
that the genial warmth of  
the sun of immortality, which  
has shone through this shattered  
frame with feeble light  
shall be more permanent  
in the regions of bliss. I feel  
within me new energies. –  
these hopes do not announce  
pain or annihilation. O  
happy man. – O benevolent  
deity thou art every where  
existing & where thy  
pure essence is interfused  
pain cannot permanent  
there is no pure pain

[Horizontal rule]

**RI MS HD/13/D, p. 16**

Then the vain philosophy of  
the schools, the dull & dry  
heaps of words which automatic  
machines without feeling have  
heaped together under the name  
of metaphysics crossed my mind. –

but their influence was lost. –  
& swallowed up in the general  
illumination: as the noise  
of the mountain torrent heard  
amidst the majesty of visible  
imagery is lost & disregarded. –

[Horizontal rule]  
does not  
the child  
form one with the  
mother & partake  
of her feelings

**RI MS HD/13/D, p. 17**

17  
The philosophers grew warm. the Eldest  
who wore a black coat said  
matter is nothing but motion  
& c – the other said so & so –  
You said the silent philosopher  
both agree with me that  
you have no Knowledge that  
is not derived from the senses  
of cours. M.B. cannot have  
any Knowledge of his imaterial  
principle & you both  
allow that matter is likewise  
an unknown thing, the question  
then is this whether thinking  
arises from the action of many  
unknown things upon each other or  
of one unknown thing upon  
many unknown things. My friends  
my friends Why will ye build  
up an idol of language & then  
quarrel whether ye shall worship  
it on your knees or standing

**RI MS HD/13/D, p. 18**

System of Idealism  
What philosophers call impressions  
the world calls things. – & so  
on. [Horizontal rule]  
Listen said the philosopher  
but analise deconnect feeling  
from what you have learnt  
otherwise: what I shall  
teach will be unintelligible  
we have been accustomed  
to reason differently –  
ie to fix different general

[Horizontal rule]  
terms to individual  
propositions. – The first  
~~m~~ men dispute because they do  
not understand each other  
because their education has  
been different & they have  
been accustomed to affix  
different meaning to words

**RI MS HD/13/D, p. 19**

19  
how often we are unable  
to understand new propositions  
at the moment. – NB TW.  
[Horizontal rule]

On the astonishment – first feeling  
is always painful; but may  
be modified either by  
pleasure or pain – metaphysical  
reason for this. –  
[Horizontal rule]

Of the influence of superstition  
in producing genius

[Horizontal rule]  
Most writers of individual history  
haven given incidents instead  
of feelings – they have  
likewise in describing former  
feelings unwittingly modified  
them by ~~form~~ present feelings

[Horizontal rule]  
We do not recollect the  
wants of infancy because we

**RI MS HD/13/D, p. 20**

have no terms, on the permanency  
& incapability of ~~the~~ modification  
in language science depends  
our visible imagery perpetually  
undergoes modification –  
Hence Children & savages  
who have few terms  
have few trains of  
permanent ideas –  
All worship must have  
been originally logopathy  
or the worship of unknown  
causes – because words were  
cheap priests invented  
tools – Moses –  
Ideas of the French  
concerning the worship of  
nature not legitimate –

**RI MS HD/13/D, p. 21**

21

[Ink sketch across top of page]

It is in the history of infancy & childhood  
that we must seek for the data  
on which our [deletion]analysis from the[/deletion]  
analysis of passion must be founded  
instincts are born with man. nine  
months sufficient to form an immense  
no of habits; ; ; the doctrine of  
the mind being a tabula  
rasa is false – habits  
of action are produced  
during the formation of organs  
& as feeling is always a  
business of organisation  
& not of accident even  
the stamp given to the  
character

[Four ink sketches]  
[Horizontal rule]

concerning  
dreams

& their recollection  
[Horizontal rule]

**RI MS HD/13/D, p. 22**

all our visible imagery occurs in  
trains, hence when we meet  
with unconnected images we fill  
up the intermediate links by  
imagination

[Horizontal rule]  
What is imagination; almost  
always the recurrence of  
remembered visible imagery under  
the influence of hope or fear

[Horizontal rule]  
When awake our trains of  
imaginations are perpetually  
broken by impressions, In  
dreams all ideas are nearly  
of the same vividness. –

[Horizontal rule]  
In waking there are constant  
minglings of impressions & ideas

[Horizontal rule]  
After reading a few books I  
was seized by the desire to  
narrate to gratify the passions  
of my youthful auditors

**RI MS HD/13/D, p. 23**

23  
I gradually began to invent  
& form stories of my own  
perhaps this passion has  
produced all my originality  
I never had a memory  
I never loved to imitate but  
always to invent. this  
has been in the case  
in all the sciences that  
I have studied – hence  
many of my errors

[Horizontal rule]  
Sun then ever sinking behind the  
dark clouds they hide thy refulgence  
from my sight; but still thy  
light is diffused over  
innumerable regions still it warms  
it delights ten millions  
of happy beings, it will warm  
it will enlighten when  
I am no more here all  
is change nothing is permanent  
nothing lasting –

**RI MS HD/13/D, p. 24**

of attachment to particular  
things ie to individuals, we  
can hardly ever connect  
feeling with a very extensive  
train of ideas – even  
amidst nature we very often  
look out for simplicity  
& beauty. –  
Resolution  
To work two hours  
with pen before breakfast  
on the ~~Child of~~ Lover  
of Nature, or the feelings  
of Eldon – from  
six till eight. –

[Horizontal rule]

From nine till two in  
exp[superscript]ts[/superscript].

[Horizontal rule]  
from four to six reading.  
seven till ten, Metaphysical  
system (ie system of the universe

**RI MS HD/13/D, p. 25**

25

of chemistry. Soon after I begun this study  
My attention was directed to the dephlogisticated  
gas of Priestley by a paper of D[superscript]r[/superscript]  
Michill of New York on the principle

of contagion, I then applied it to  
wounds & breathed it in small  
quantities mingled with common air.

**RI MS HD/13/D, p. 26**

5  
Its absorption by Animals. –

[Horizontal rule]  
The enthusiasm produced by discovery  
no longer exists in my mind: In  
calmly considering the effects produced  
by the inspiration of the gaseous

oxyd of Azote on myself they  
appear astonishing & important  
as affording hopes of effecting  
considerable changes in the  
human constitution

[Horizontal rule]  
But I was then unable to procure  
it in quantities sufficient  
to the subject to any extent.

**RI MS HD/13/D, p. 27**

27

Decomposition of the Nitrate of  
Ammonia at different temperatures  
products. – Analysis of the  
gas. – its properties. –  
2  
Gases produced during the  
decomposition of Nitrous gases

by metals, Iron, Zinc, Tin. –  
quantity of gas evolved from

different quantities –  
Examination of its properties  
formation of Ammonia –  
Aq: regia. –

3  
Decomposition of Nitrous gas  
by [unclear]Sulphures[/unclear], by Muriate of Tin  
by the Sulphites; that composition

[Ink sketch of face in profile]  
4  
properties, its decomposition by  
Charcoal, Sulphur Hydrogen & phosphorus  
its absorbtion by water & the acids  
its action on other gases, its  
action on blood, its decomposition  
by pyrophyrus –

**RI MS HD/13/D, p. 28**

28  
13d 28  
The Child  
of  
Genius –  
The following Investigation was carried on  
with the view of determining the  
composition properties & mode of action  
of an agent producing extraordinary  
effects upon living beings –  
A few experiments upon this agent  
were made about eighteen months  
ago with a view of determining  
the probability of a Theory published  
by D[superscript]r[/superscript] Mitchil of New York attempting  
to prove that it was the principle  
of contagion, It was then applied  
to wounds & breathed in small  
quantities mingled with common air. –  
The following investigation was carried  
on in the pneumatic institution  
.1. The composition of Nitrous acid, its absorbtion  
of Nitrous gas, its solution in water specific  
gravities of its solution. Of Ammonia  
its specific gravity & solution in water  
Of the specific gravity of the combinations  
of Nitrous acid, & Ammonia or the  
Nitrate of Ammonia, its loss in  
evaporation. –

**RI MS HD/13/D, back cover**

[Blank]