

# Paradise and poetry - an in-depth study of William Cowpers poetic mind

The Cowper and Newton Museum - Bibliography: Critical Writing On William Cowper, 1980



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## Books « Biographia Evangelica

Now came the cane from India, smooth and bright With Nature's varnish; severed into stripes That interlaced each other, these supplied Of texture firm a lattice-work, that braced The new machine, and it became a chair.

## William Cowper

So when the Jewish leader stretch'd his arm, And waved his rod divine, a race obscene, Spawn'd in the muddy beds of Nile, came forth, Polluting Egypt: gardens, fields, and plains Were cover'd with the pest; the streets were fill'd; The croaking nuisance lurk'd in every nook; Nor palaces, nor even chambers, 'scaped; And the land stank, so numerous was the fry. There sit, involved and lost in curling clouds Of Indian fume, and guzzling deep, the boor, The lackey, and the groom: the craftsman there Takes a Lethæan leave of all his toil; Smith, cobbler, joiner, he that plies the shears, And he that kneads the dough; all loud alike, All learned, and all drunk! There, closely braced And neatly fitted, it compresses hard The prominent and most unsightly bones, And binds the shoulders flat. This pathological disorder can also become a psychosis.

## Biographies « Biographia Evangelica

By the end of the Book he has reached Earth. It is a flame that dies not even there Where nothing feeds it: neither business, crowds, Nor habits of luxurious city life, Whatever else they smother of true worth In human bosoms, quench it or abate.

## William Cowper « Biographia Evangelica

God never meant that man should scale the heavens By strides of human wisdom.

## William Cowper

A tattered apron hides, Worn as a cloak, and hardly hides a gown More tattered still; and both but ill conceal A bosom heaved with never-ceasing sighs. Here I had hardships of different kinds to conflict with which I felt more sensibly in proportion to the tenderness with which I had been

treated at home.

### **Books « Biographia Evangelica**

I should then with double pain Feel all the rigour of thy fickle clime; And, if I must bewail the blessing lost, For which our Hampdens and our Sidneys bled, I would at least bewail it under skies Milder, among a people less austere; In scenes which, having never known me free, Would not reproach me with the loss I felt. Josiane Boulad-Ayoub, Michael Cartwright, Michel Grenon and William Kinsley Edmonton: Academic Printing and Publishing, 1991. Nor can example hurt them; what they see Of vice in others but enhancing more The charms of virtue in their just esteem.

### **Lyrical Writing in Robert Frost's Poetry**

Satan is no longer human. An Open Guide, Buckingham: Open University Press 1992.

### **William Cowper « Biographia Evangelica**

Youth repairs His wasted spirits quickly, by long toil Incurring short fatigue; and though our years, As life declines, speed rapidly away, And not a year but pilfers as he goes Some youthful grace that age would gladly keep, A tooth or auburn lock, and by degrees Their length and colour from the locks they spare; The elastic spring of an unwearied foot That mounts the stile with ease, or leaps the fence, That play of lungs inhaling and again Respiring freely the fresh air, that makes Swift pace or steep ascent no toil to me, Mine have not pilfered yet; nor yet impaired My relish of fair prospect: scenes that soothed Or charmed me young, no longer young, I find Still soothing and of power to charm me still.

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