

Hail to the Bard!

To Erasmus Darwin on his work intitled "Zoonomia"

"OLD 50TH," 10.10.10.D
Sternhold & Hopkins, 1562

Dewhurst Bilborrow (b. 1776)

1



1. Hail to the bard! who sung, from cha - os hurled, How suns and
2. While in green veins im - pas - sioned ed - dies move, And beau - ty
3. Seeks round its cell the san - guine streams that pass, And drinks with
4. Ere - while, e - mer - ging from its li - quid bed, It lifts in
5. Seeks with spread hands the bo - som's vel - vet orbs; With clo - sing

6



1. pla - nets formed the whir - ling world; How sphere on sphere earth's
2. kin - dles in - to life and love. How the first em - bryon
3. crim - son gills the vi - tal gas; Weaves with soft threads the
4. ge - lid air its nod - ding head; The light's first dawn with
5. lips the mil - ky fount ab - sorbs; And as com - pressed the

11



1. hid - den stra - ta bend, And caves of rock her cen - tral fires de -
2. fire sphere or cube Lives in new forms -- a line, a ring, a
3. blue me - and - ering vein, The heart's red con - cave and the sil - ver
4. trem - bling eye - lid hails, With lungs un - taught ar - rests the bal - my
5. dul - cet streams dis - til, Drinks warmth and fra - grance from the liv - ing

1. fend; Where gems un - born their twin - kling eyes un - fold, And
 2. tube; Closed in the womb with limbs un - fin - ished laves, Sips
 3. brain; Leaves the long nerve, ex - pands th' im - pa - tient sense, And
 4. gales; Tries its new tongue in tongues un - known, and hears The
 5. rill; -- Eyes with mute rap - ture ev - ery wav - ing line Prints

1. young ores shoot in ar - bo - res - cent gold.
 2. with rude mouth the sa - lu - ta - ry waves;
 3. clothes in sil - ken skin the nas - cent ens.
 4. strange vi - bra - tions with un - prac - tised ears;
 5. with ad - or - ing kiss the Pa - phian shrine.

6 And learns erelong, the perfect form confess'd,
 Ideal Beauty from its mother's breast.
 Now in strong lines, with bolder tints design'd,
 You sketch ideas, and portray the mind;
 Teach how fine atoms of impinging light
 To ceaseless change the visual sense excite;

7 While the bright lens collects the rays, that swerve,
 And bends their focus on the moving nerve.
 How thoughts to thoughts are link'd with viewless chains,
 Tribes leading tribes, and trains pursuing trains;
 With shadowy trident how Volition guides,
 Surge after surge, his intellectual tides;

8 Or, Queen of Sleep, Imagination roves
 With frantic Sorrows, or delirious Loves.
 Go on, O FRIEND! explore with eagle-eye;
 Where wrapp'd in night retiring Causes lie:
 Trace their slight bands, their secret haunts betray,
 And give new wonders to the beam of day;

9 Till, link by link with step aspiring trod,
 You climb from NATURE to the throne of GOD.
 —So saw the Patriarch with admiring eyes
 From earth to heaven a golden ladder rise;
 Involv'd in clouds the mystic scale ascends,
 And brutes and angels crowd the distant ends.