

## Appendix 5.19: from George Gordon, Lord Byron, *English Bards, and Scotch Reviewers* (1809)

George Gordon, Lord Byron (1788–1824) began writing *English Bards, and Scotch Reviewers* while he was a student at Cambridge, and published it after he left the university. He had already published several volumes of verse but had not yet shot to major fame with *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage* (1812).

Selection copied from George Gordon, Lord Byron. *English Bards, and Scotch Reviewers. A Satire*. London: James Cawthorn, 1809.

[p. 48; lines 597–608]

Let these,<sup>1</sup> or such as these, with just applause,  
Restore the Muse's violated laws;  
But not in flimsy DARWIN's pompous chime,  
That mighty master of unmeaning rhyme;  
Whose gilded cymbals, more adorn'd than clear,  
The eye delighted but fatigu'd the ear,  
In show the simple lyre could once surpass,  
But now worn down, appear in native brass;  
While all his train of hovering sylphs around,  
Evaporate in similes and sound:  
Him let them shun, with him let tinsel die:—  
False glare attracts, but more offends the eye.\*

\* The neglect of the "Botanic Garden," is some proof of returning taste; the scenery is its sole recommendation.

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<sup>1</sup> The poets Byron has praised in previous lines. The immediately preceding lines discuss *Translations, Chiefly from the Greek Anthology, with Tales and Miscellaneous Poems* (1806) by Robert Bland (1779–1825) in collaboration with J. H. Merivale (1779–1844).