**RI MS HD/13/D Transcription (AL)**

[Horizontal rule]

[Heavy deletion with an insertion, also deleted]

[Pencil sketch of a face in profile]

[Blank page]

[MS torn] / [MS illegible]

<Text> = interlineation

{Text} = inverted

**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/Ambitions then
~~A~~

~~Confiding in my power I~~ [?~~w~~]
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
[?~~xxxxxx~~] <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 philsiologist
& a poet.
how often have I been ama[MS illegible] by
the [?arts/ants] –
The court was at this time engaged
in a negociation with England
My acquaintance with that country
was known to [?Passan] 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 la[MS illegible]ted 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 [heavy 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
expts.

[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 Dr
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 Sulphures, by Muriate of Tin
by the Sulphites; that composition

[Ink sketch of face in profile]
4
properties, its decomposition by
Charcoal, Sulphur Hygrogen & 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 Dr 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. –}