

DON JUAN
Canto 1

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DON JUAN
CANTO FIRST
edited by Peter Cochran

The following appendices will be found at the end of this document:

Appendix 1: Julia's letter

Appendix 2: Julia's letter, and the Brougham stanzas

Appendix 3: cancelled stanza: Hock and Soda Water!

These dates are at the top of the manuscript, before the Dedication:

Venice July 3^d. 1818. (*rough draft*)

Venice Sept^r. 16th. 1818 (*fair copy*)

1.

I want a Hero: an uncommon Want,
When every Year and Month sends forth a new one,
Till, after cloying the Gazettes with Cant,
The Age discovers he is not the true one;
Of such as these I should not care to vaunt¹ – 5
I'll therefore take our ancient friend Don Juan;²
We all have seen him in the Pantomime,³
Sent to the Devil, somewhat ere his time.

1: For the rejection of war as a poetic theme, in favour of love, see Moore's Anacreon, Ode XXIII.

2: *Don Juan*: he originates in a Spanish play first staged in 1630 and called *El Burlador de Sevilla y convidado de piedra* (The Joker of Seville and the Stone Guest) by a monk called Gábril Tellez, better known as Tirso de Molina. The protagonist rapidly became an universal figure: as the type is not uncommon, it is surprising no-one had invented him earlier. He is normally an unscrupulous and blasphemous aristocratic seducer who meets his deserts when invited to a banquet by the ghostly statue of a man whom he has killed in the course of seducing his daughter. The banquet concluded with his being carried off to hell. Mozart's *Don Giovanni* is the most famous theatrical version; but two other plays – *Dom Juan ou le Festin de Pierre* (1665) by Molière and *The Libertine* by Thomas Shadwell (1676: its music was by Purcell) – are also very important. B. never mentions any of them.

3: *pantomime*: There were numerous stage versions, for straight actors, for harlequin troupes, and even for puppets. In late 1817 six versions had been running in London: *Don Giovanni* at the King's, *The Libertine* at Covent Garden, *Don Giovanni, or a Spectre on Horseback!* at the Surrey, and *Don Juan; or The Libertine Destroyed* at the Lyceum. In early 1818 they were joined by *Giovanni in London* at the Olympic and *Harlequin's Vision* at Drury Lane. The line thus implies every theatre-goer's familiarity with the subject. These are the facts: but to compare B.'s *Don Juan* with any other version before or since is at once to see that his hero stands outside the main tradition and that his poem derives few if any ideas from it. B.'s Don Juan is aristocratic; he was born in Seville; and that is all. He is no jaded voluptuary, and he seduces no-one, being instead defenceless before women who are initially in positions of greater power than he. His first two affairs are, in moral terms, as innocent or as damnable as any other adolescent passion, and although both his loves, Julia and Haidee, suffer subsequently, Juan deserts neither and remains passionately in love with each. His has few subsequent liaisons, and although at the end of Canto XVI he does appear to have three new ones in prospect simultaneously, he is still a passive victim of female predatoriness, and of circumstance. B. may be inverting the legend, as he inverts several other of his received themes; or he may be expressing his own experienced and subversive view of sexual relationships and responsibilities. He wrote to Murray, on February 16th 1821: **"I meant to take him [Juan] on the tour of Europe – with a proper mixture of siege – battle – and adventure – and to make him finish as Anacharsis Cloots – in the French Revolution. – To how many Cantos this may extend – I know not – nor whether even if I live I shall complete it – but this was my notion. – I meant to have made him a Cavalier Servente in Italy, and a cause for a divorce in England – and a Sentimental 'Werther-faced man' in Germany – so as to show the different ridicules of the society in each of those countries – – and to have displayed him gradually *gâté* and *blasé* as he grew older – as is natural. But I had not quite fixed whether to make him end in Hell – or in an unhappy marriage – not knowing which would be the severest – The Spanish tradition says Hell – but it is probably only an Allegory of the other state. You are now in possession of my notions on the subject"** (BLJ VIII 78).

2.

Vernon, the Butcher Cumberland, Wolfe, Hawke,⁴
 Prince Ferdinand, Granby, Burgoyne, Keppel, Howe,⁵ 10
 Evil and Good, have had their tittle of talk,
 And filled their Sign-posts then, like Wellesley now;⁶
 Each in their turn like Banquo's Monarchs stalk,
 Followers of Fame, "nine Farrow" of that Sow;⁷
 France, too, had Buonaparte and Dumourier⁸ 15
 Recorded in the Moniteur and Courier. –⁹

4: B. lists, in order to reject as protagonists, British heroes of the Seven Years' War, the '45 rebellion, and the Napoleonic Wars. Edward *Vernon* was an admiral who in 1745 blockaded the French in their ports while William Augustus, Duke of *Cumberland*, defeated the Scots at Culloden, earning the titles *Butcher* and *Stinking Billy*. James *Wolfe* also fought at Culloden, but is best known for his attack on Quebec in 1759, driving the French from Canada. Admiral Edward *Hawke* was victorious over the French at Quiberon Bay, also in 1759.

5: *Ferdinand*, Duke of Brunswick, defeated the French at Minden, also in 1759. B. celebrates the death of his son on the eve of Waterloo in *CHP* III st.23. The Marquess of *Granby* was commissioned at the time of Culloden, but became most popular for his 1760 victory over the Austrians at Warburg. John *Burgoyne*, conversely, was defeated by the Americans at Saratoga in 1777. Admiral Viscount *Keppel* fought at Quiberon Bay, and captured Havana in 1762. The Earl of *Howe* defeated the French at Ushant in 1794, and quelled the mutiny at Spithead in 1797. He was known to the Fleet as Black Dick.

6: *Signposts ... Wellesley*: Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington, bombarded Copenhagen, helped Spain win the Peninsular War, and defeated Napoleon at Waterloo in 1815. Many places were named after his exploits (*Signposts*) including Wellington Place and Waterloo Bridge; but B. disliked him. See *Don Juan* IX sts.1-12, which were first intended to go into Canto III.

7: *Banquo's Monarchs ... "nine Farrow"*: the comparison of the rejected admirals and generals to the kings Banquo shows Macbeth in IV i, or that of *Fame* to the sow whom the witches refer to as having *eaten her nine farrow* in the same scene, followed by *grease that's sweaten from the murderer's gibbet*, is uncomplimentary.

One definition of an epic poem says that it should celebrate a national hero. B. finds no recent ones worth celebrating, perhaps because those available furthered the cause of English hegemony in Britain (the '45) of British hegemony worldwide (the Seven Years' War) or of monarchical absolutism throughout Europe (the Napoleonic Wars). As a Scot he would object to the first, as a post-Vienna radical to the third, and as one born for opposition to all three. He now lists some French heroes as possible alternatives.

8: *Buonaparte and Dumourier*: French revolutionary generals, the former becoming First Consul, then Emperor, and conquering most of Europe. Afforded a minor place here, he was of course the determining factor in the whole history of the period, and little can be understood if he is left out of account. *Dumourier* should really be spelled *Dumouriez*.

9: *Moniteur and Courier*: French revolutionary newspapers; although the *Courier* was also an English Tory newspaper. Southey wrote to it.

3.

Barnave, Brissot, Condorcet, Mirabeau,
 Petion, Clootz, Danton, Marat, La Fayette,
 Were French, and famous people, as we know;
 And there were others, scarce forgotten yet, 20
 Joubert, Hoche, Marceau, Lannes, Dessaix, Moreau,¹⁰
 With many of the military set,
 Exceedingly remarkable at times,
 But not at all adapted to my rhymes. –

4.

Nelson was once Britannia's God of War,¹¹ 25
 And still should be so, but the tide is turned;
 There's no more to be said of Trafalgar,
 'Tis with our Hero quietly inurned;¹²
 Because the Army's grown more popular,
 At which the Naval people are concerned; 30
 Besides, the Prince is all for the Land-Service,¹³
 Forgetting Duncan, Nelson, Howe, and Jervis.¹⁴

10: The French protagonists B. lists first are almost all defeated idealists. Antoine *Barnave* was a moderate French revolutionist, guillotined in 1793; Jacques Pierre *Brissot* de Warville was the leader of the moderate Girondins, and was also guillotined in 1793. The Marquis de *Condorcet* was a brilliant mathematician and writer, murdered by the Jacobins in 1794; the Comte de *Mirabeau*, another great revolutionary writer and politician, died naturally in 1791. *Petion* de Villeneuve was first President of the National Convention; another moderate, he died mysteriously in 1794. Anacharsis *Clootz* was a passionately anti-Christian revolutionist; Robespierre guillotined him in 1794, and B. said at one stage (BLJ VIII 78) that he intended Don Juan “**to finish as Anacharsis Cloots – in the French revolution**” (see below). Georges *Danton* was the greatest man the French revolution produced; Robespierre guillotined him in 1794, too. Jean Paul *Marat* was murdered in his bath by Charlotte Corday in 1793: though an idealist of sorts, he is the least agreeable of B.'s rejected French heroes. The Marquis de *la Fayette* fought in the American as well as the French Revolution; alone of all those B. lists, he survived to be fêted after the war, and died in 1834. The second batch of Frenchmen are mostly revolutionary generals. Joseph *Joubert* was a writer who survived the revolution. Lazare *Hoche* and Francois *Marceau* were early republican generals; Jean *Lannes*, Louis *Dessaix* (correct spelling) and Jean *Moreau* were three of Napoleon's successful army colleagues; Moreau incurred his jealousy and died fighting for the Russians. Thomas Medwin reports B. as saying: “**You see I am true to Nature in making the advances come from the females. I shall next draw a town and country life at home, which will give me room for life, manners, scenery, &c. I will make him neither a dandy in town, nor a fox-hunter in the country. He shall get into all sorts of scrapes, and at length end his career in France. Poor Juan shall be guillotined in the French Revolution! What do you think of my plot? It shall have twenty-four books too, the legitimate number. Episodes it has, and will have, out of number; and my spirits good or bad, will serve for the machinery. If that be not an epic, if it be not strictly according to Aristotle, I don't know what an epic poem means**” (*Conversations of Lord Byron*, ed. Lovell, p.165.) Such an ending would have involved a partial contradiction of the lines here. B.'s cheerful assumption that epic poets need only follow the rules of epic construction to write epics makes it look as if he is *humming* Medwin; but the tone accords well with his flippancy elsewhere – see below, I 183-7.

11: *Nelson*: Horatio Nelson, admiral, victor in 1805 of the Battle of *Trafalgar* (27). Normally regarded as a cut above the others by whom he is here surrounded. B. blames the press for his reputation's decline; but he was a friend of the Neapolitan tyranny, and his life had been written by Southey.

12: *Quietly inurned*: *Hamlet*, I, iv, 49 : *Wherefore the sepulchre, wherein we saw thee quietly inurned ...*

13: *the Prince*: the Prince Regent preferred soldiering to sailing, though his skill was great at neither.

14: *Duncan, Nelson, Howe, and Jervis*: famous British admirals. Duncan beat the Dutch at Camperdown in 1797; Howe fought in the Seven Years' War; Jervis was Nelson's commander at Cape St Vincent (also 1797) and cleaned up some of the abuses which had led to the mutinies at Spithead and the Nore.

5.

Brave men were living before Agamemnon *
 And since, exceeding various and Sage,
 A good deal like him too, though quite the same none; 35
 But then they shone not on the Poet's page,
 And so have been forgotten: – I condemn none,
 But can't find any in the present age
 Fit for my poem (that is, for my New One)
 So, as I said, I'll take my friend Don Juan. – 40

* "Vixere fortes ante Agamemnona, &c." – Horace.¹⁵

6.

Most epic poets plunge "in Medias res"
 (Horace makes this the Heroic turnpike road)¹⁶
 And then your Hero tells, whene'er you please,
 What went before – by way of Episode,
 While seated after dinner at his ease, 45
 Beside his Mistress in some soft abode,
 Palace, or Garden, Paradise or Cavern,
 Which serves the happy couple for a tavern.

7.

That is the usual method, but not mine –
 My way is to begin with the beginning; 50
 The Regularity of my design
 Forbids all wandering as the worst of Sinning,¹⁷
 And therefore I shall open with a line
 (Although it cost me half an hour in Spinning)
 Narrating somewhat of Don Juan's father, 55
 And also of his Mother, if you'd rather.¹⁸

15: [Many] *brave men were living before Agamemnon*: Hor. Od. IV 9, 25-6. A dry borrowing, implying that other perspectives about heroism must be entertained besides those either received or propagated by the media (see above, lines 3 and 16). B. also intends an anti-Homeric reference – see below, IV sts.101-2. The quotation sums up everything that he has been saying about heroes in the previous stanzas. The age had produced no hero that he could celebrate without numerous reservations, fatal to epic: perhaps the simple age of epics was past: perhaps B. is advertising the fact that his "New One" is written in a style that he knows in advance will make traditional epic pretensions insupportable.

16: "*in Medias res*," / (*Horace makes this the Heroic turnpike road*): in the *Ars Poetica* (148-9) Horace praises the epic habit (as in the *Odyssey* and *Aeneid*) of starting a story in the middle: "semper ad eventum festinat et in medias res / non secus ac notas auditorem rapit ..." ("he always hurries to the main issue, and ushers the hearer into the midst of the story, as if it were already known ...") As with the lists of rejected heroes in sts.2-3, the refusal to follow Horace's recommendation – or Homer's or Virgil's examples (B. could claim to be following the *Iliad*, which has a chronologically simple narrative) perhaps shows his sense that the time of "real" epics is over. Yet see his apparent contempt, ten years previous, for Southey's rejection of the *degraded title of epic* in his preface to *Madoc* (EBSR 225n).

17: *the worst of Sinning*: B. spends much of the poem digressing – the line makes it clear that it was his intention to do so from the outset.

18: *Narrating somewhat of Don Juan's father, / And also of his Mother, if you'd rather*: the story of Juan's parents and childhood was perhaps to be a revealing prelude to the tale of the standard satanic seducer. B.'s poem may have changed the traditional figure into something less culpable and more attractive, independent of his conscious will.

8.

In Seville was he born, a pleasant city,¹⁹
 Famous for oranges and women; He
 Who has not seen it will be much to pity,
 So says the Proverb – and I quite agree;²⁰ 60
 Of all the Spanish towns is none more pretty,
 Cadiz perhaps²¹ – but that you soon may see: –
 Don Juan's parents lived beside the river,
 A noble Stream, and called the Guadalquivir. –²²

9.

His father's name was José – *Don*, of course;²³ 65
 A true Hidalgo,²⁴ free from every stain
 Of Moor or Hebrew blood, he traced his source
 Through the most Gothic Gentlemen of Spain;
 A better Cavalier ne'er mounted horse,
 Or, being mounted, e'er got down again, 70
 Than José, who begot our hero, who
 Begot – but that's to come – Well, to renew:²⁵

19: *Seville*: B. had visited Seville from July 25 to 29 1809.

20: *the Proverb*: *Quien no ha visto Sevilla / No ha visto maravilla* (*He who has not seen Seville has not seen a wonder.*)

21: *Cadiz*: also visited by B., from July 29 to August 2 1809. See *CHP* I st.65: B. here reverses the opinion he expresses there:

*Fair is proud Seville; let her country boast
 Her strength, her wealth, her site of ancient days;
 But Cadiz, rising on the distant coast,
 Calls forth a sweeter, though ignoble praise.*

B. seems (*CHP* I sts.65-71) to associate Cadiz with sexual licence. See BLJ II 216-18 and below, Canto III st.82.

22: *the Guadalquivir*: the river which flows into the Atlantic at Cadiz.

23: *Don, of course*: Spanish titles were very common.

24: *A true Hidalgo*: one of pure Spanish blood. Those of either North African or of Jewish extraction, no matter how remote, were regarded as Hispanically inauthentic. The joke is perhaps at the expense of Southey's epic *Roderick, Last of the Goths*. Published in 1814, this work made an immediate impact on B., who woke John Murray up in the middle of the night to say that he thought it was *one of the finest poems he had ever read* (LJ II 496). He subsequently compared it to *Paradise Lost*. In it, Moors are anarchic degenerates, and Goths noble, Christian, chaste, and upholders of order. B. never wrote or spoke of his change of mind, which may have happened shortly after his marriage. Compare BLJ IV 235 with BLJ IV 256. See also below, I, 441-4 and n, and I, 1515 and n.

25: *begot ... begot*: compare, for example, *Matthew* Chapter I: if in doubt, see covert jokes analysed at I, 384n and sts.51-2 below.

10.

His Mother was a learned Lady, famed²⁶
 For every branch of Science known –
 In every Christian language ever named, 75
 With Virtues equalled by her wit alone,
 She made the cleverest people quite ashamed,
 And even the Good with inward Envy groan,
 Finding themselves so very much exceeded
 In their own way by all the things that She did. – – – 80

11.

Her Memory was a Mine: She knew by heart
 All Calderon and greater part of Lopé,²⁷
 So that if any Actor missed his part
 She could have served him for the Prompter's copy;
 For her Feinagle's were an useless art,²⁸ 85
 And he himself obliged to shut up shop – he
 Could never make a memory so fine as
 That which adorned the brain of Donna Inez.

26: *a Learned Lady*: despite B.'s disclaimers (“**tell me if you think there could or could not have been any intention of depicting that woman**” – BLJ VII 239) no-one believes that Inez is not based on “**the bitch my wife**” (BLJ VI 95). See altercations in proof, below, received sts.27, 28 and 61. However, *Don Juan* is not just thinly-disguised autobiography. As Juan's mother and educator, Inez bears responsibility for his initial ignorance about the facts of life, and thus for the escapade which sets him off on his travels. That the hero's fall should be occasioned by his own mother, and that she should be one considered morally perfect, is all part of the irony. That she is also a version of the poet's wife, and an embodiment of the English tendency to cant, merely adds to the complexity of the effect. Here is Annabella's reaction to *Don Juan* I and II: “I have read those parts of *Don Juan* which contain personal allusions, and the impression was not so disagreeable as I expected. In the first place, I am very much relieved to find that there is not any thing which I can be expected to notice, and I am thankful that none for whom I am interested can be pained or injured. As for myself, I do not think that my sins are in the pharasaical or pedantic line, and I am very sure that he does not think they are, but avails himself of the prejudices which some may entertain against me, to give a plausible colouring to his accusations. I must however confess that the quizzing in one or two passages was so good as to make me smile at myself – therefore others are heartily welcome to laugh. What may have been omitted *à mon sujet* I know not – certainly more annoying things might have been said – though the malice of intention is sufficiently evident. I do not feel inclined to continue the perusal. It is always a task to me now to read his works, in which, through all the levity, I discern enough to awaken very painful feelings”.

27: *Calderon ... Lopé*: Calderon de la Barca (1600-81) and Lopé de Vega (1562-1625) are the two greatest Spanish dramatists, although Tirso de Molina – author of the first *Don Juan* play – is another important star in their galaxy. As Lopé and Calderon between them wrote over 2,200 plays, Donna Inez's memory was considerable.

28: *Feinagle*: Gregor von Feinagle (1765??-1819) a contemporary expert in the art of memory.

12.

Her favourite Science was the mathematical,²⁹
 Her noblest Virtue was her Magnanimity, 90
 Her wit (she sometimes tried at wit) was Attic all,³⁰
 Her serious Sayings darkened to Sublimity;
 In short, in all things She was fairly what I call
 A Prodigy – her Morning dress was Dimity,³¹
 Her Evening Silk, or, in Summer, Muslin, 95
 And other Stuffs, with Which I won't stay puzzling.

13.

She knew the Latin – that is, “the Lord’s prayer,”
 And Greek – the Alphabet – I’m nearly sure;
 She read some French romances here and there,
 Although her mode of speaking was not pure; 100
 For native Spanish she had no great care,
 At least her Conversation was obscure;
 Her thoughts were theorems, her words a problem,
 As if She deemed that Mystery would ennoble ‘em.

14.

She liked the English and the Hebrew tongue, 105
 And said there was Analogy between ‘em;
 She proved it somehow out of Sacred song,*
 But I must leave the proofs to those who’ve seen ‘em,
 But this I heard her say, and can’t be wrong,
 And all may think which way their Judgements lean ‘em, 110
 “‘Tis strange – the Hebrew Noun which means ‘I am,’³²
 The English always use to govern d—n.”

PROOF: Vertically in the right-hand margin, Hobhouse square-brackets 111-12 and writes **pray dont** against 112, underlining **d—n** three times. Byron scores through the request once.

29: *mathematical:* Lady Byron was very good at mathematics, and their daughter, Augusta Ada, was to be an outstanding mathematician. When the engagement was in progress B. referred to his fiancée as the “**Princess of Parallelograms**” (BLJ IV 48). But then see *Beppo* (1817) 623–8:

*They stare not on the Stars from out their Attics,
 Nor deal (thank God for that!) in Mathematics.*

*Why I thank God for that is no great matter;
 I have my reasons, you no doubt suppose,
 And as perhaps they would not highly flatter,
 I’ll keep them for my life (to come) in prose ...*

B. did not keep them for his Memoirs, which were burnt anyway: he put them, lightly disguised, into *Don Juan* Canto I.

30: *Attic:* pure classical Greek. The word implies elevation.

31: *Dimity:* cotton with raised decorations. Annabella was fond of the material. See below, XIV, 26, 8.

32: *Hebrew Noun which means “I am,”:* Yahweh. See God’s words to Moses at *Exodus* III, 13-14. The joke refers to *I’m damned, Well I’ll be damned, Goddam, Goddammit*, and so on. See below, Canto XI 1.90, where *God damn!* is described as the English *shibboleth*.

15.

Some women use their tongues – She looked a lecture,
 Each eye a Sermon, and her brow a homily,
 An all-in-all-sufficient self-director, 115
 Like the lamented late Sir Samuel Romilly,³³
 The law’s expounder, and the State’s Corrector,
 Whose Suicide was almost an Anomaly –
 One sad example more, that “All is Vanity”,³⁴
 (The Jury brought their verdict in, “Insanity”).³⁵ 120

16.

In short, She was a walking Calculation;³⁶
 Miss Edgeworth’s Novels stepping from their Covers,³⁷
 Or Mrs Trimmer’s books on Education,³⁸
 Or Cœleb’s Wife set out in search of Lovers,³⁹
 Morality’s prim Personification, 125
 In which not Envy’s self a flaw discovers;
 To others share let “female Errors fall”⁴⁰
 For She had not even One, – the worst of all. –

33: *Sir Samuel Romilly* (1757-1818) was a politician and lawyer whom B. disliked because he had, in error, reneged on a commitment to represent B. in the separation proceedings between himself and Lady B., representing Lady Byron instead. A liberal reformer and anti-slavery campaigner, Romilly committed suicide in 1818 on the death of his wife, and only the inquest verdict allowed him Christian burial; a fact here mocked. For B.’s rhetorically gleeful prose reaction, see letter to Murray, June 7 1819: “**I have at least seen Romilly shivered – who was one of the assassins [of Agamemnon / Byron]. – – When that felon, or Lunatic – (take your choice – he must be one and might be both) was doing his worst to uproot my whole family tree, branch, and blossoms; when after taking my retainer he went over to them – when he was bringing desolation on my hearth – and destruction on my household Gods – did he think that in three years a natural event – a severe domestic – but an expected and common domestic Calamity would lay his Carcase in a Cross road or stamp his name in a Verdict of Lunacy? Did he (who in his drivelling sexagenary dotage had not the courage to survive his Nurse – for what else was a wife to him at this time of life?–) reflect or consider what my feelings must have been ...**” and so on (BLJ VI 150).

34: “All is Vanity”: Ecclesiastes, I, 2. Title of one of the *Hebrew Melodies* that Annabella had copied.

35: For other jury jokes, see below, V, 61, 8, and XV, 84, 4.

36: *She was a walking Calculation*: (a) refers to mathematics (b) implies instinctive, non-stop hypocrisy.

37: *Miss Edgeworth*: Maria Edgeworth (1767-1849) was a popular educationalist and novelist of the day, authoress of *Castle Rackrent*.

38: *Mrs. Trimmer*: Sarah Trimmer (1741-1810) wrote conservative educational pamphlets.

39: *Cœleb’s Wife*: a novel by Hannah More (1745-1833). All three writers aimed at moral improvement, and would have earned Inez’s approval, a fact which should give us pause. See below, IV 915n.

40: “female Errors fall”: from the description of Belinda in Pope’s *The Rape of the Lock*, II 15-18:

*Yet graceful Ease, and Sweetness void of Pride,
 Might hide her Faults, if Belles had Faults to hide:
 If to her share some Female Errors fall,
 Look in her face, and you’ll forget ‘em all.*

Bell was one of Annabella’s nicknames. Compare *Beppo*, 612: *Unknown as bells within a Turkish steeple.*

17.

Oh! She was perfect beyond all parallel,
 Of every modern female Saint's comparison, 130
 So far beyond the cunning powers of hell,⁴¹
 Her Guardian Angel had given up his Garrison,⁴²
 Even her minutest motions went as well
 As those of the best Time-piece made by Harrison;⁴³
 In Virtues nothing earthly could surpass her – 135
 Save thine "incomparable Oil", Macassar!⁴⁴

Note. "Description des *Vertus incomparables* de l'Huile de Macassar." See the Advertisement.

18.

Perfect she was, but as Perfection is
 Insipid in this naughty World of ours,
 Where our first Parents never learned to kiss
 Till they were exiled from their earlier bowers,⁴⁵ 140
 Where all was Peace, and Innocence and Bliss
 (I wonder how they got through the twelve hours)
 Don José,⁴⁶ like a lineal Son of Eve,⁴⁷
 Went plucking various fruit without her leave.

19.

He was a Mortal of the careless kind, 145
 With no great love for Learning, or the Learned,
 Who chose to go where'er he had a mind,
 And never dreamed his Lady was concerned;
 The World, as usual, wickedly inclined
 To see a Kingdom or a house o'erturned,⁴⁸ 150
 Whispered he had a Mistress; Some said *two*,
 But for domestic quarrels *one* will do.

41: *So far beyond the cunning powers of hell:* carries on the satire from 111-12 above. Inez / Annabella has no intuitive understanding of things either brute English, or diabolical.

42: *Her Guardian Angel had given up his Garrison:* though B. seems not to have known Blake, compare Blake's *The Angel*.

43: *Harrison:* John Harrison (1693-1776) was a famous chronologist, who invented a device, long sought after, which could determine a ship's longitude.

44: **B.'s note:** *thine "incomparable Oil," Macassar!* B. himself used Rowland's Macassar hair oil: "**pray bring me some 'Macassar' or 'Russia Oil', as I begin to get venerable**" (BLJ VI 138). Anti-Macassars were in the nineteenth century covers put over sofa- and chair-covers, and designed to keep hair-oil from furniture fabric.

45: B. has got it wrong here – it was in part as a consequence of learning to kiss lustfully that Adam and Eve were exiled – see *Paradise Lost* X 994-1066. B.'s Eden is always as much Miltonic as Biblical.

46: The name Don Jose is often found in Le Sage's *Gil Blas*; Everybody read *Gil Blas*. Byron sells a "fine paper" set in 1816 (CMP 234), but later buys another four-volume 1818 one (CMP 250): just in time for the writing of the two opening cantos of *Don Juan*, with their Spanish ambience. All the Spanish names in Canto 1 – Don Alfonso, Donna Julia, Don Juan, Antonia, and so on – are to be found in the novel.

47: *our first Parents ... lineal Son of Eve:* the references to *Genesis* here are only partly comic. See below at I 1011 and II 1512. José, like Alfonso and Lambro after him and Adam and B. before him, is doomed to ruin his own Eden. B. distributes the blame in complex ways which shames the misogynist *Genesis*, however. José is the guilty party first, Inez merely suspected of intrigue, and provoking by her faultlessness; Julia is indubitably guilty; and Lambro is only claiming his own – even though in doing so he destroys it.

48: *The World, as usual, wickedly inclined / To see a Kingdom or a house o'erturned:* an autobiographical reference to the public rumours which surrounded B.'s separation from Annabella.

20.

Now Donna Inez had, with all her merit,
 A great opinion of her own good qualities;
 Neglect, indeed, requires a Saint to bear it, 155
 And so indeed She was in her Moralities;
 But then She had a Devil of a Spirit,
 And sometimes mixed up fancies with realities,
 And let few opportunities escape
 Of getting her liege lord into a Scrape. 160

21.

This was an easy matter with a man
 Oft in the wrong, and never on his guard;⁴⁹
 And even the wisest, do the best they can,
 Have moments, hours, and days so unprepared,
 That you might "brain them with their Lady's fan,"⁵⁰ 165
 And sometimes Ladies hit exceeding hard,
 And Fans turn into falchions in fair hands,⁵¹
 And why and wherefore No one understands. –⁵²

22.

'Tis pity learned Virgins ever wed
 With persons of no sort of education, 170
 Or Gentlemen who, though well-born and bred,
 Grow tired of Scientific conversation;
 I don't choose to say much upon this head;
 I'm a plain man, and in a single station,
 But – Oh! ye Lords of Ladies intellectual,⁵³ 175
 Inform us truly, have they not hen-peck'd you all?⁵⁴

49: *Oft in the wrong, and never on his guard:* a Byronic self-description.

50: "brain them with their Lad's fan"; see *Henry IV I ii iii* 25-6. Hotspur is expressing contempt for the manhood of one who will not support his plot.

51: *falchions:* swords.

52: The joke at 165-8 echoes Pope, *Rape of the Lock*, V 39 *et. seq.*:

*All side in Parties, and begin th'Attack;
 Fans clap, Silks russle, and tough Whalebones crack;
 Heroes' and Heroines' Shouts confus'dly rise,
 And base, and treble Voices strike the Skies.
 No common Weapons in their Hands are found,
 Like Gods they fight, nor dread a mortal Wound.*

53: *Ladies intellectual:* B. affected disdain for intellectual women; see his comment on Mme de Staël, below, III 686n; also IV 871-96. However, it did not prevent him from having affairs with several, and of course marrying one.

54: *hen-peck'd:* a rare manuscript example of B. inserting an apostrophe into a past participle. He clearly intends a comic effect. See also *learn'd*, below, I 1392.

23.

Don José and his lady quarrelled – *why*,
 Not any of the many could divine,
 Though several thousand people chose to try,
 'Twas surely no concern of theirs nor mine; 180
 I loathe that low Vice, Curiosity,
 But if there's any thing in which I shine⁵⁵
 'Tis in arranging all my friends' affairs,
 Not having, of my own, domestic cares.

PROOF: at 182 the printer has **And if there's anything ...** Byron scores **And** through once, and replaces his manuscript **But**.

24.

And so I interfered, and with the best 185
 Intentions, but their treatment was not kind;
 I think the foolish people were possessed,
 For Neither of them could I ever find,
 Although their Porter afterwards confessed –
 But that's no matter, and the worst's behind – 190
 For little Juan o'er me threw, down stairs,
 A Pail of housemaid's water, unawares. –⁵⁶

25.

A little curly-headed, good-for-nothing,
 And mischief-making Monkey from his birth,
 His parents ne'er agreed except in doting 195
 Upon the most unquiet Imp on earth;⁵⁷
 Instead of quarrelling, had they been but both in
 Their senses, they'd have sent young Master forth –
 To School, or had him soundly whipped at home,
 To teach him manners for the time to come.⁵⁸ 200

55: *In which I shine:* B. suddenly and unexpectedly speaks as the poem's supposed Spanish narrator.

56: *a pail of housemaid's water:* a potty.

57: *unquiet Imp:* implies Juan's damnability already.

58: ... *had him soundly whipped at home, / To teach him manners for the time to come:* recalls the following, from a letter to Squire Allworthy from the mean and uncharitable Parson Thwackum in *Tom Jones*, Book XVIII Chapter 4: "Had not my Hand been withheld from due Correction, I had scourged much of this diabolical Spirit out of a Boy, of whom from his Infancy I discovered the Devil had taken such entire Possession; but Reflections of this Kind now come too late." For B. on Thwackum, see BLJ VI 80, 82, VII 132, and X 52.

26.

Don José and the Donna Inez led
 For some time an unhappy sort of life,
 Wishing each other, not divorced, but dead;
 They lived respectably as man and wife,
 Their conduct was exceedingly well-bred 205
 And gave not outward signs of inward strife,
 Until at length the smothered fire broke out,
 And put the business past all kind of doubt.

27.

For Inez called some druggists and physicians,
 And tried to prove her loving lord was *mad*,⁵⁹ 210
 But as he had some lucid intermissions,
 She next decided he was only *bad*;
 Yet when they asked her for her depositions,
 No sort of Explanation could be had,
 Save that her duty both to man and God⁶⁰ 215
 Required this conduct – which seemed very odd. –

PROOF: Against lines 209-12, Hobhouse writes in the right-hand margin, **This is so very pointed[.]** Byron crosses it though twice, writing in the left-hand margin, **If people make application it is there own fault.**

59: *to prove her loving lord was mad:* during the 1816 separation, B. claimed, Lady B. tried to have him declared insane: **“I was surprised one day by a Doctor and a Lawyer almost forcing themselves at the same time into my room. I did not know till afterwards the real object of their visit. I thought their questions singular, frivolous, and somewhat importunate, if not impertinent: but what should I have thought, if I had known that they were sent to provide proofs of my insanity?”** (Medwin, ed. Lovell, pp.44-5). Lady Byron denied this; but the evidence indicates that she did see his irrationality, his contradictoriness, and even his more extreme flights of humour, as signs of madness. That she should feel such a course necessary or appropriate is normally taken as a sign of her humourlessness, and of their real incompatibility. But B. was certainly a sore trial to her, and the episode shows above all the desire for a solution to a problem, namely being married to him, with which she could not intuitively cope. The fact, which erupts rather unexpectedly into the poem, is a sign that at this point B.’s fictional pretence is thinner than it is elsewhere.

60: *her duty ... to man and God:* Now, independent of any advice whatever, I deem it my duty to God to act as I am acting (Annabella to Augusta, February 14 1816).

28.

She kept a journal where his faults were noted,
 And opened certain trunks of books and letters,⁶¹
 All which might – if occasion served – be quoted;
 And then she had all Seville for abettors, 220
 Besides her good old Grandmother (who doted);
 The hearers of her case became repeaters,
 Then Advocates, Inquisitors, and Judges,
 Some for amusement, others for old grudges.

PROOF: Hobhouse underlines 218, and writes in the right-hand margin against 219-22, **There is some doubt about this.** Byron crosses through three times, and writes, in the opposite margin, **What has the “doubt” to do with the poem? – it is at least poetically true – why apply every thing to that absurd woman? I have no reference to living characters. –**

29.

And then this best and meekest woman bore 225
 With such serenity her husband’s woes,
 Just as the Spartan ladies did of yore⁶²
 Who saw their Spouses killed, and nobly chose
 Never to say a word about them more;
 Calmly she heard each Calumny that rose 230
 And saw *his* agonies with such Sublimity,
 That all the World exclaimed, “What Magnanimity!”⁶³

30.

No doubt this patience, when the World is damning us,
 Is philosophic in our former friends;
 ‘Tis also pleasant to be deemed Magnanimous, 235
 The more so in obtaining our own ends;
 And what the Lawyers call a “*Malus animus*”,⁶⁴
 Conduct like this by no means comprehends;
 Revenge in person’s certainly no Virtue,
 But then ’tis not *my* fault, if *others* hurt you. 240

61: *And opened certain trunks of books and letters:* see BLJ V 93, letter to Augusta September 14 1816: “**You know I suppose that Lady B secretly opened my letter trunks before she left Town ...**” B.’s protest at Hobhouse’s objection is disingenuous.

62: *Just as the Spartan ladies did of yore:* Plutarch speaks in his *Life of Lycurgus* about the constraints placed on mourning for Spartan women. B.’s gloss, that their Stoic decision not to mourn was inspired either by calculation or glee, is not in Plutarch – and is probably unfair to Lady Byron.

63: “What Magnanimity!”: see BLJ V 231-2: “**I can’t make out whether ... it is you [Augusta] that have been ill or the children – or what your melancholy – & mysterious apprehensions tend to – or refer to – whether to Caroline Lamb’s novels – Mrs Claremont’s evidence – Lady Byron’s magnanimity – or any other piece of imposture ...**” See also Letter to John Murray: “**I hate the word ‘Magnanimity’ because I have sometimes seen it applied to the grossest of impostors, by the greatest of fools**” (CMP 123).

64: “*Malus animus*”: a heart inclined to ill. A quotation from the Roman comic dramatist Terence (*The Girl from Andros*) rather than from any book of law. Compare below, XIII, 12, 8.

31.

And if our quarrels should rip up old stories,
 And help them with a lie or two additional,
I'm not to blame – as you well know – no more is
 Any one else; they were become traditional;
 Besides, their Resurrection aids our glories 245
 By contrast, which is what we just were wishing all;
 And Science profits by this Resurrection –⁶⁵
 Dead Scandals form good Subjects for dissection.

32.⁶⁶

Their friends had tried at reconciliation,
 Then their relations, who made matters worse 250
 ('Twere hard to say upon a like occasion
 To whom it may be best to have recourse –
 I can't say much for friend or yet relation)
 The Lawyers did their utmost for divorce,⁶⁷
 But scarce a fee was paid on either side, 255
 Before, unluckily, Don José died.

33.

He died: and most unluckily, because
 According to all hints I could collect
 From Counsel learned in those kinds of laws
 (Although their talk's obscure and circumspect) 260
 His death contrived to spoil a charming cause;⁶⁸
 A thousand pities also with respect
 To Public feeling, which on this occasion
 Was manifested in a great Sensation.

65: *And Science profits by this Resurrection:* refers to Resurrection-men such as Burke and Hare, who provided surgeons with illicit cadavers for experimentation.

66: *Sts.32–6* form a series of covert comments on B.'s own separation proceedings, in which, plagued by relations, lawyers, bailiffs, and well-meaning friends, his life was reduced to a misery: see the prose fragment *Donna Josepha* (CMP 77-78). The trauma was lasting, and the theme of wrecked home and lost family was one to which he returned at intervals in his work from now on. See below, I 286 and n, and quotation from BLJ below, III sts.49-51n. Alfonso and Lambro are two examples in these Cantos of men who, aiming to recover home and family, destroy them.

67: *The Lawyers did their utmost for divorce:* divorce was virtually unheard-of in eighteenth-century Spain. B. is playing tricks with his English story against a Spanish background.

68: *His death contrived to spoil a charming cause:* continues the satire on *schadenfreude* and human parasites started at 150-1 above.

34.

But ah! he died; and buried with him lay 265
 The Public feeling, and the Lawyers' fees;
 His house was sold, his servants sent away,
 A Jew took one of his two mistresses,
 A Priest the other – at least so they say;
 I asked the Doctors after his disease: 270
 He died of the slow fever called the tertian,⁶⁹
 And left his Widow to her own aversion.

35.

Yet José was an honourable man,⁷⁰
 That I must say, who knew him very well;
 Therefore his frailties I'll no further scan, 275
 Indeed there were not many more to tell;
 And if his passions now and then outran
 Discretion, and were not so peaceable
 As Numa's (who was also named Pompilius)⁷¹
 He had been ill brought up, and was born bilious. 280

36.

Whate'er might be his worthlessness or worth,
 Poor fellow! he had many things to wound him –
 Let's own, since it can do no good on earth –
 It was a trying moment that which found him⁷²
 Standing alone beside his desolate hearth, 285
 Where all his household Gods lay shivered round him;⁷³
 No Choice was left his feelings or his pride,
 Save death or Doctors' Commons – so he died.⁷⁴

69: *tertian*: a fever which recurred every other day.

70: *José was an honourable man*: echoes Mark Antony to the crowd at *Julius Caesar* III ii 82, 83, 87, 94, 99, 124, 127, 151, 153, 212 and 214; but without Antony's increasing sarcasm.

71: *Numa Pompilius*: mythical second King of Rome, whose reign was very peaceful and culturally productive.

72: *a trying moment*: B. does not dramatise any specific moment, and as the divorce proceedings are only ambiguously under way at José's death, it is hard to see when it occurs. B. is again writing autobiographically.

73: *his household Gods lay shivered*: an important phrase for B., who echoes it in a letter to Moore (BLJ VI 69) describing his own misery during the separation: "**I could have forgiven the dagger or the bowl, any thing, but the deliberate desolation piled upon me, when I stood alone upon my hearth, with my household gods shivered around me.**" See below, III sts.51-2, for the similar feelings of Lambro; CMP 97: and *Marino Faliero*, III ii 361-4: *My pure household gods / Were shiver'd on my hearth, and o'er their shrine / Sate grinning Ribaldry and sneering Scorn*. The figure of King Priam in Book II of Virgil's *Aeneid*, is sometimes quoted as an antecedent, when Pyrrhus slaughters first his son, and then him, before his household altar: but see this speech from Scott's *The Antiquary* (1816) a novel much read by B. (see BLJ V 109, 112, VIII 88) in which Monkbarne, the protagonist, describes his ancestor, a German printer: "He was, indeed, a man who would have stood firm, had his whole printing-house, presses, fonts, forms, great and small pica, been shivered to pieces round him ..." (Vol.I p.142). The sacredness of home is a central theme in epic. Odysseus must return there, Aeneas has to establish a new one; but Juan has to leave his, as B. had to, and wanders for the entire poem.

74: *Doctor's Commons*: the (English) divorce courts.

37.

Dying intestate, Juan was sole heir⁷⁵
 To a Chancery Suit, and messuages, and lands,⁷⁶ 290
 Which, with a long minority and care,
 Promised to turn out well in proper hands;
 Inez became sole Guardian, which was fair,
 And answered but to Nature's just demands;
 An only Son left with an only Mother 295
 Is brought up much more wisely than another. –

38.

Sagest of women, even of widows, She
 Resolved⁷⁷ that Juan should be quite a paragon,
 And worthy of the noblest pedigree
 (His Sire was of Castile, his Dam from Arragon);⁷⁸ 300
 Then for accomplishments of Chivalry,
 In case our Lord the King should go to war again,
 He learned the arts of riding, fencing, gunnery,
 And how to scale a fortress – or a Nunnery.⁷⁹

39.

But that which Donna Inez most desired, 305
 And saw into herself each day before all
 The learned tutors whom for him she hired,
 Was, that his breeding should be strictly moral;⁸⁰
 Much into all his Studies she enquired,
 And so they were submitted first to her, all, 310
 Arts, sciences, no branch was made a Mystery
 To Juan's eyes, excepting natural History.

75: *Dying intestate* a misrelated participle.

76: *messuages*: building property with adjacent land. Another English term.

77: B. always regarded women's resolution ironically. Compare this canto, 75, 2; or below, XIV, 61, 1.

78: *Castile ... Aragon*: the two ancient Iberian kingdoms united by the marriage of Ferdinand and Isabella in 1469. From this time Spain's unity and the start of her imperial power are dated. See also above, I 66-8 and n; and V 827-8.

79: *or a Nunnery*: evidence that B. may still be envisaging a traditionally depraved career for his protagonist – see above, I 56n. Shadwell's *The Libertine*, I i, has the following exchange:

Jacomo: *How often have you scal'd the Walls of Monasteries? Two Nuns, I know, you ravished, and a third you dangerously wounded for her violent resistance.* **Don John:** *The perverse Jades were uncivil, and deserv'd such usage.*

80: *his breeding should be strictly moral*: from this moment the malign influence of Inez's blinkered ethic makes itself felt on the entire structure of the tale, the moral focus of which (see previous note) starts to alter.

40.

The languages, especially the dead,
 The Sciences, and most of all the abstruse,
 The arts, at least all such as could be said 315
 To be the most remote from common use,
 In all these he was much and deeply read;
 But not a Page of anything that's loose,
 Or hints continuation of the Species,
 Was ever suffered, lest he should grow vicious. 320

41.⁸¹

His Classic Studies made a little puzzle,
 Because of filthy loves of Gods and Goddesses,⁸²
 Who in the earlier ages made a bustle,
 But never put on pantaloons or boddices;
 His reverend tutors had at times a tussle, 325
 And for their Aeneids, Iliads, and Odysseys,⁸³
 Were forced to make an odd sort of apology,
 For Donna Inez dreaded the Mythology.

81: Sts.41-3: B.'s mock-indignant list of almost every major Greek and Latin poet (apart from the dramatists, he pointedly excludes Horace, the one who influenced him most, plus Pindar and Propertius) is one of his ways of asserting *Don Juan's* centrality in the European tradition, and of answering those critics who accused him of impiety and immorality.

82: *Because of filthy loves of Gods and Goddesses:* see, for instances, *Iliad* XIV 153-351, or *Odyssey* VIII 266-366.

83: *Aeneids, Iliads, and Odysseys:* epic poems by Virgil and Homer, of which *Don Juan* is a mock version, involving a complex series of critical jokes.

42.

Ovid's a rake, as half his verses show him,⁸⁴
 Anacreon's morals are a still worse sample,⁸⁵ 330
 Catullus scarcely has a decent poem,⁸⁶
 I don't think Sappho's Ode a good example,⁸⁷
 Although Longinus tells us there is no hymn⁸⁸
 Where the Sublime soars forth on wings more ample; *
 But Virgil's Songs⁸⁹ are pure – except that horrid one 335
 Beginning with "Formosum Pastor Corydon".⁹⁰

* See Longinus Section 10th., "Ἴνα μὴ ἐν τῷ παθῶς φαινῆται, παθῶν δὲ συνῶδος."⁹¹

PROOF: In the notes section to Canto I, Hobhouse writes, next to Byron's Longinus quotation: **ἴνα μὴ ἐν περὶ αὐτῆν παθῶς φαινῆται, παθῶν δὲ συνῶδος** I do not think you are quite held out by the quotation – Longinus says the circumstantial assemblage of the passions makes the sublime, he does not talk of *This sublime* as being soaring & ample Byron answers, opposite: **I do not care for that – it must stand – /NB/**

43.

Lucretius' irreligion is too strong⁹²
 For early stomachs, to prove wholesome food;
 I can't help thinking Juvenal was wrong,⁹³
 Although no doubt his real intent was good, 340
 For speaking out so plainly in his song,
 So much indeed as to be downright rude;
 And then what proper person could be partial
 To all those nauseous Epigrams of Martial?⁹⁴

84: *Ovid*: erotic and mythological Roman poet.

85: *Anacreon*: Greek lyric poet of love and intoxication. *The Isles of Greece* (see below, Canto III) is in imitation of him.

86: *Catullus*: Roman erotic poet. Some of his poems are so obscene as to defy translation.

87: *Sappho's Ode*: the *Ode to Aphrodite* by the Greek Lesbian poet Sappho, quoted by

88: *Longinus*: late Greek critic, author of an influential *Treatise on the Sublime*.

89: *Virgil's songs*: his pastoral poems or Eclogues.

90: *that horrid one / Beginning with "Formosum Pastor Corydon"*: the second Eclogue concerns the love of one shepherd, Corydon, for another, Alexis.

91: **B.'s note**: "She (Sappho) wants to display, not a single emotion, but a whole congress of emotions" (Hobhouse is pedantically accurate in his re-quotation and translation of the line, but short-sighted and alarmingly humourless in his perception of both B. and of Longinus).

92: *Lucretius*: philosophical and materialist Roman poet.

93: *Juvenal*: Roman satirist, an influence on B. in such works as *EBSR* and *AoB*.

94: *Martial*: Roman epigrammatist, much translated by B.

44.

Juan was taught from out the best Edition, 345
 Expurgated by learned men, who place,
 Judiciously, from out the Schoolboy's vision,
 The grosser parts; but fearful to deface
 Too much their modest bard by this omission,
 And pitying sore his mutilated case, 350
 They only add them all in an Appendix,
 Which saves, in fact, the trouble of an Index. *

* Fact. There is or was such an edition, with all the obnoxious Epigrams of Martial placed by themselves at the end. — — —⁹⁵

45.

For there we have them all in one fell swoop⁹⁶
 Instead of being scattered through the pages;
 They stand forth marshalled in a handsome troop 355
 To meet the ingenuous Youth of future ages,
 Till some less rigid Editor shall stoop
 To call them back into their separate cages,
 Instead of standing staring altogether,
 Like Garden Gods, and not so decent either. — 360

95: B.'S NOTE: An edition of Martial published in Amsterdam in 1701, dedicated to the French Dauphin, has been adduced as an example of such thoughtful editing; also the "Delphini" ("bowdlerised for a dauphin") edition of Vincent Collesso (1680). An example of Martialian humour might illustrate B.'s point:

*Cum dicis "Propero, fac si facis," Hedyle, languet
 protinus et cessat debilitata Venus.
 expectare iube: velocius ibo retentus,*

Hedyle, si properas, dic mihi, ne properem. (Book I, xlvi)

(When, Hedylus, you say, "Hurry, I'm going to come," I lose all interest and Venus makes me go limp. But if you tell me to slow down, I get much more excited. So if, Hedylus, you want it to go more quickly, tell me to go more slowly).

96: *one fell swoop:* *Macbeth*, IV iii 219. Macduff is bewailing the deaths of his wife and children. A quotation often removed from its context.

46.

The Missal too (it was the family Missal)⁹⁷
 Was ornamented in a sort of way
 Which antient Mass-books often are, and this all
 Kinds of Grotesques illumined; and how they,
 Who saw those figures on the margin kiss all, 365
 Could turn their optics to the text and pray,
 Is more than I know; but Don Juan's Mother
 Kept this herself, and gave her Son another.

47.

Sermons he read, and lectures he endured,
 And homilies, and lives of all the Saints; 370
 To Jerome and to Chrysostom inured,⁹⁸
 He did not take such studies for restraints;
 But how Faith is acquired, and then ensured,
 So well not one of the aforesaid paints
 As Saint Augustine in his fine Confessions,⁹⁹ 375
 Which make the reader envy his transgressions. –

48.

This, too, was a sealed book to little Juan –
 I can't but say that his Mamma was right,
 If such an Education was the true one:
 She scarcely trusted him from out her sight; 380
 Her maids were old, and if She took a new one
 You might be sure she was a perfect fright;¹⁰⁰
 She did this during even her husband's life –
 I recommend as much to every Wife. –

97: *Missal*: prayer-book.

98: *To Jerome and to Chrysostom*: early church fathers, the former translator of the Bible into Latin. Both lived for part of their lives in deserts, and were famous for their ascetic rigour. Chrysostom (c.347-407) was brought up successfully by a very strict mother; but *inured* implies that Inez will not fare as well with Juan.

99: *Saint Augustine in his fine Confessions*: St Augustine of Hippo (354-430) lived an indulgent life before he turned to religion. He describes in his *Confessions* – though in no great detail – how he stole pears, harboured lustful feelings and worldly ambitions, frequented the theatre, and hung around with bad people of one kind or another. He tells us with shame that he lived with one woman to whom he was not married, but to whom he was faithful. As Chrysostom was, but as Juan will not be, he was saved by the prayers and example of his mother.

100: *You might be sure she was a perfect fright*: recalls nineteenth-century rules governing recruitment of female bedders in Cambridge colleges.

49.

Young Juan waxed in goodliness and grace;¹⁰¹
 At Six a charming child, and at eleven 385
 With all the promise of as fine a face
 As e'er to Man's maturer growth was given;
 He studied steadily, and grew apace,
 And seemed, at least, in the right road to heaven,
 For half his days were passed at Church, the other 390
 Between his tutors, Confessor, and Mother. –

50.

At six, I said, he was a charming child,
 At twelve he was a fine, but quiet boy,
 Although in Infancy a little wild, 395
 They tamed him down amongst them; to destroy
 His natural Spirit not in vain they toiled,
 At least it seemed so; and his mother's joy
 Was to declare how sage, and still, and steady,
 Her young Philosopher was grown already. 400

51.

I had my doubts, perhaps I have them still,
 But what I say is neither here nor there;
 I knew his father well, and have some skill
 In character – but it would not be fair 405
 From Sire to Son to augur good, or ill;
 He and his wife were an ill-sorted pair –
 But Scandal's my aversion – I protest
 Against all evil speaking, even in jest.

101: *Young Juan waxed in goodliness and grace:* echoes Luke 2, 40: ... *the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him;* B.'s fair copy alteration shows the effect to be deliberate. See also Luke 2 51: ... *And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.* See notes to sts.51-53 below.

52.

For my part I say nothing – nothing – but
This I will say – my reasons are my own –¹⁰² 410
 That if I had an only Son to put
 To School (as God be praised that I have none)
 'Tis not with Donna Inez I would shut
 Him up to learn his Catechism alone,
 No – No – I'd send him out betimes to College, 415
 For there it was I picked up my own knowledge.¹⁰³

53.

For there one learns – 'tis not for me to boast,
 Though I acquired – but I pass over *that*,
 As well as all the Greek I since have lost –
 I say that there's the place – but "*Verbum Sat*;"¹⁰⁴ 420
 I think I picked up, too, as well as most,
 Knowledge of matters – but no matter *what* –
 I never married – but, I think, I know
 That Sons should not be educated so. –

102: *For my part I say nothing – nothing – but / This I will say*: echoes Mrs Slipslop in Fielding's *Joseph Andrews*, Book II Chapter 3: "... for my part I say nothing, but that it is wondersome how some People can carry all things with a grave Face." It is later adapted in Sheridan's *The Critic*, one of B.'s favourite plays: ... the best farce – (the *Critic* – it is only too good for a farce) ... (BLJ III 239). The line is said by the paranoiacally insecure and insincere Sir Fretful Plagiary in I i: "I say nothing – I take away from no man's merit – am hurt at no man's good fortune – I say nothing – But this I will say – through all my knowledge of life, I have observed – that there is not a passion so strongly rooted in the human heart as envy!" See BLJ III 94 and V 198 for B.'s use of the line in letters; also *Beppo* line 765. Slipslop is a palpable hypocrite; Plagiary a man mocked and ostracised on account of his fraudulence and easily-bruised vanity. B. twice quotes another of his lines in letters: "... if there is anything to one's praise, it is a foolish vanity to be gratified at it, and if it is abuse, – why one is sure to hear of it from one damn'd good-natur'd friend or another!" See BLJ IV 78 and 313.

103: *For there it was I picked up my own knowledge*: has overtone of Genesis. B. lived riotously and got heavily into debt at Cambridge. Both joke and rhyme are echoed below, at II, 1087-8. The theme of education is important in the first canto-and-a-half of the poem: stressed at intervals throughout Canto I (see above, st.16) and reinforced strongly at the start of Canto II, it ceases when Juan refuses to eat his tutor Pedrillo at II sts.77-8, an event subtextually theological as well as gastronomic (see notes). The lawyers of John Murray, in attempting successfully to obtain an injunction against pirates of the first two Cantos, persuaded the court that the poem was moral in its emphasis in that *One great tendency of the book ... was to show in Don Juan's ultimate character the ill effect of that injudicious maternal education which Don Juan is represented as having received, and which had operated injuriously upon his mind* (Smiles I 405-8, quoted DJV I 32). B. was doubtless pleased, insisting as he always did that the poem was moral in its intention; but whether the forensically-cunning Murray lawyers enjoyed reading and re-reading it in researching their brief, we cannot know. The main establishment motive behind their action was to keep *Don Juan* expensive, and thus out of the hands of ordinary people.

104: "*Verbum Sat*": a word is enough to the wise (Latin).

54.

Young Juan now was Sixteen years of age, 425
 Tall, handsome, slender, but well knit; he seemed
 Active, though not so sprightly, as a Page;
 And every body but his mother deemed
 Him almost man; but She flew into a rage,
 And bit her lips (for else She might have screamed) 430
 If any said so, for to be precocious
 Was in her eyes a thing the most atrocious.

55.

Amongst her numerous acquaintance – all
 Selected for their discretion and devotion –
 There was the Donna Julia,¹⁰⁵ whom to call 435
 Pretty were but to give a feeble notion
 Of many charms in her as natural
 As sweetness to the flower, or salt to Ocean,
 Her Zone to Venus, or his bow to Cupid
 (But this last Simile is trite and stupid). – 440

56.

The darkness of her Oriental eye
 Accorded with her Moorish origin;
 (Her blood was not all Spanish, by the bye –
 In Spain, you know, this is a sort of Sin);¹⁰⁶
 When proud Grenada fell, and, forced to fly, 445
 Boabdil wept,¹⁰⁷ of Donna Julia's kin
 Some went to Africa, Some staid in Spain,¹⁰⁸
 Her great great Grandmamma chose to remain.

105: *the Donna Julia*: B.'s choice for the name of Juan's first love is perhaps a covert tribute to the early influence on him of Thomas Moore's book *The Poetical Works of Thomas Little* (1801) which he claimed to have known by heart at the age of fifteen. Many of the poems in it are called *To Julia*. See BLJ VII 117: also below, I, 828-9n. Rousseau's Julie is another source: see below, VIII, 422-3. The name occurs at Le Sage's *Gil Blas*, X 12.

106: *In Spain, you know, this is a sort of Sin*: the satire about Julia's fine Moorish blood may in part be directed at the anti-Islamic tendencies of Southey's epics *Thalaba* and *Roderick, Last of the Goths*. Francis Jeffrey pointed out the vulgarity of Southey's prejudices in his review of *Roderick*, writing of *the excessive horror and abuse with which the Mahometans are uniformly spoken of on account of their religion alone* (*Edinburgh Review*, June 1815 p. 3). B., who, unlike Southey, had travelled among Moslems, felt strongly on the subject (both men had travelled in Spain, and Southey was an Hispanic specialist) and probably made Juan's first two loves part-Moorish by way of riposte. See below, III Stanzas 62-76 and notes; and IV Stanzas 54-7 and notes.

107: *Boabdil*: Mohammed XI, last Moorish King of Granada, defeated and dethroned in 1491, when after a siege he handed the keys of the city to Ferdinand (see above, I 330n). The spot where this occurred is called *el último suspiro del Moro*, "The last sigh of the Moor".

108: *Some went to Africa, some staid in Spain*: on the final defeat of the Moors in the fifteenth century.

57.

She married (I forget the pedigree)
 With an Hidalgo,¹⁰⁹ who transmitted down 450
 His blood less noble than such blood should be;
 At such alliances his Sires would frown,
 In that point so precise in each degree
 That they bred *in and in*, as might be shown –
 Marrying their cousins – nay, their aunts and nieces, 455
 Which always spoils the breed, if it increases.

58.

This Heathenish Cross restored the breed again,
 Ruined its blood, but much improved its flesh;
 For, from a root the ugliest in Old Spain
 Sprung up a branch as beautiful as fresh; 460
 The Sons no more were short, the daughters plain,
 But there's a rumour which I fain would hush,
 'Tis said that Donna Julia's Grandmamma
 Produced her Don more heirs at love than law. –

59.

However this might be, the race went on 465
 Improving still through every generation
 Until it centered on an only Son,
 Who left an only daughter; my Narration
 May have suggested that this Single One¹¹⁰
 Could be but Julia (whom on this occasion 470
 I shall have much to speak about) and She
 Was married, charming, chaste, and twenty three.

60.

Her Eye (I'm very fond of handsome eyes)
 Was large and dark, suppressing half its fire
 Until She spoke, then through its soft disguise 475
 Flashed an expression more of pride than ire,
 And love than either; and there would arise
 A Something in them which was not desire,
 But would have been, perhaps, but for the Soul
 Which struggled through and chastened down the whole.¹¹¹480

109: *Hidalgo*: of authentic Spanish extraction: see above, I 66-7n.

110: *this Single One*: the bloodline expires with Julia.

111: *But would have been, perhaps, but for the Soul / Which struggled through and chastened down the whole*: The lines *But would have been, save for the Soul, / Which gently chastened down the whole* appear, erased, at lines 217-18 of the rough draft of *Mazepa*, which B. may have been writing at the same time as *Don Juan*. They describe the beauty of Teresa, for the love of whom Mazepa suffers as Juan does for that of Julia.

61.

Her Glossy hair was clustered o'er a brow
 Bright with intelligence, and fair and smooth,
 Her eyebrow's shape was like the aerial bow,
 Her cheek all purple with the beam of youth,
 Mounting, at times, to a transparent glow, 485
 As if her Veins ran lightning; She, in sooth,
 Possessed an air and grace by no means common;
 Her Stature tall – I hate a dumpy woman.¹¹²

PROOF: At 488 Hobhouse underlines **dumpy woman**, then writes **Oh myledi** Byron erases his underlining with four obliques, and crosses the phrase through twice.

62.¹¹³

Wedded She was some years, and to a Man
 Of fifty, and such husbands are in plenty; 490
 And yet, I think, instead of such a ONE
 'Twere better to have TWO of five and twenty,
 Especially in countries near the Sun;
 And now I think on't, "mi vien in mente",¹¹⁴
 Ladies even of the most uneasy Virtue 495
 Prefer a Spouse whose age is short of thirty.¹¹⁵ –

63.

'Tis a sad thing, I cannot choose but say,
 And all the fault of that indecent Sun,
 Who cannot leave alone our helpless clay,
 But will keep baking, broiling, burning on, 500
 That howsoever people fast and pray
 The flesh is frail, and so the Soul undone;
 What men call gallantry, and Gods Adultery,
 Is much more common where the Climate's sultry.

112: *I hate a dumpy woman*: yet both Lady Byron and Teresa Guiccioli were short. See BLJ V 103: "**I hate short women – for more reasons than one.**" At the time of writing B. had not met Teresa Guiccioli.

113: SOURCE: Peter Vassallo, in *Byron: The Italian Literary Influence* (pp. 67-74) adduces, as a possible source for the story of adultery which now follows, *Il Ritorno Inaspettato (The Unexpected Return)* one of the ottava rima *Novelle Galanti* by Giambattista Casti (first published 1790, enlarged 1804). In it Climene, married at first happily to Lindoro, but deserted by him in favour of the army, has an affair with the thirteen-year-old Rosmin, and extricates herself wittily on her husband's return. Vassallo sees the portrayal of Julia's comically inexorable defeat by temptation (below, Stanzas 75-85) as especially indebted to Casti. *Il Ritorno Inaspettato* is also a subtext for *Beppo*. B. had first read the *Novelle* in 1816: see BLJ V 80.

114: "mi vien in mente": "it occurs to me" (Italian).

115: *Virtue ... thirty* is a rhyme, "Varty ... tharty". See below, XIV, 53, 1 / 3.

64.

Happy the Nations of the moral North!¹¹⁶ 505
 Where all is Virtue, and the Winter Season
 Sends Sin without a rag on shivering forth
 ('Twas Snow that brought S^t. Francis back to reason)¹¹⁷
 Where Juries cast up what a wife is worth
 By laying whate'er sum in Mulct¹¹⁸ they please on¹¹⁹ 510
 The lover, who must pay a handsome price,
 Because it is a marketable Vice.

PROOF: At 508, Byron underlines St. Anthony, and writes, in the right-hand margin, **I am not sure that it was not Saint Francis who had the “wife of Snow” in that case the line must run [“]S^t. Francis back to reason.”**

65.

Alfonso¹²⁰ was the name of Julia's lord,
 A man well looking for his years, and who
 Was neither much beloved, nor yet abhorred; 515
 They lived together as most people do,
 Suffering each other's foibles by accord,
 And not exactly either *one* nor *two*,
 Yet he was jealous, though he did not show it,
 For Jealousy dislikes the world to know it. – 520

116: Happy the Nations of the moral North!: in B.'s earlier idiom (*The Giaour*, 1099-1102) this goes:

*“The cold in clime are cold in blood,
 Their love can scarce deserve the name;
 But mine is like the lava flood
 That boils in Ætna's breast of flame.*

117: *St. Francis:* B. was correct in remembering that it was St. Francis of Assisi rather than St. Antony of Padua about whom he was thinking. See Alban Butler, *Lives of the Fathers, Martyrs and other Principal Saints* (1814 edition, Vol. X p. 81): *The care with which he [St. Francis] watched over himself to preserve the virtue of purity, ought not to be passed over. In the beginning of his conversion, finding himself assailed with violent temptations of concupiscence, he often cast himself into ditches full of snow. Once, under a more grievous assault than ordinary, he presently began to discipline himself sharply: then with great fervour of spirit he went out of his cell, and rolled himself in the snow; after this, having made seven great heaps of snow, he said to himself, “Imagine these were thy wife and children ready to die of cold, thou must then take great pains to maintain them.” Whereupon he set himself again to labour in the cold. By the vigour and fervour with which he on that occasion subdued his domestic enemy, he obtained so complete a victory, that he never felt any more assaults. Yet he continued always most wary in shunning every occasion of danger; and, in treating with women, kept so strict a watch over his eyes, that he scarce knew any woman by sight.* B.'s idea of *reason* in relation to women is amusingly exemplified here. See also below, Canto VI 133-4, and BLJ IV 28, where Marchand adduces *Hudibras*, II, i, 374 as a possible source: *'Twas he [Love] that made Saint Francis do / More than the devil could tempt him to, / In cold and frosty weather grow / Enamoured of a wife of snow; / And though she were of rigid temper, / With melting flames accost and tempt her.* If Marchand is correct, the suspicion dawns that B. thought St. Francis to have been energetic enough to melt his snow-wife. It would have been a thought to tantalise him.

118: *in Mulct:* by way of fine.

119: *a marketable Vice:* refers to damages for enticement, emblem of the way in England even love is valued materially. See BLJ VIII 140 and n for the example of a husband being awarded £1,000. Compare *Beppo*, 295-6: *But Heaven perserve Old England from such courses / Or What becomes of damage, and divorces?*

120: The name Don Alfonso is often found in Le Sage's *Gil Blas*.

66.

Julia was – yet I never could see why –
 With Donna Inez quite a favourite friend;
 Between their tastes there was small Sympathy,
 For not a line had Julia ever penned;
 Some people whisper (but, no doubt, they lie, 525
 For Malice still imputes some private end)
 That Inez had, ere Don Alfonso's marriage,
 Forgot with him her very prudent carriage.

67.

And that still keeping up the old connection,
 Which Time had lately rendered much more chaste, 530
 She took his lady also in affection,
 And certainly this Course was much the best –
 She flattered Julia with her sage protection,
 And complimented Don Alfonso's taste –
 And if she could not (who can?) silence scandal, 535
 At least she left it a more slender handle.

68.

I can't tell whether Julia saw the affair¹²¹
 With other people's eyes, or if her own
 Discoveries made, but none could be aware
 Of this, at least no Symptom e'er was shown – ` 540
 Perhaps she did not know, or did not care –
 Indifferent from the first, or callous grown;
 I'm really puzzled what to think or say,
 She kept her Counsel in so close a way.

69.

Juan She saw, and, as a pretty child, 545
 Caressed him often; such a thing might be
 Quite innocently done, and harmless styled,
 When she had twenty years, and thirteen he;
 But I am not so sure I should have smiled
 When he was Sixteen, Julia twenty three, 550
 These few short years make wondrous alterations,
 Particularly amongst Sun-burnt Nations. – – – –

121: B. recollects the supposed affair below at I, St.176, enlarging it to the extent where *Alfonso's loves with Inez were well known*.

70.

Whate'er the cause might be, they had become
 Changed; for the dame grew distant, the youth shy,
 Their looks cast down, their greetings almost dumb, 555
 And much Embarrassment in either eye;
 There surely will be little doubt with some
 That Donna Julia knew the reason why,
 But as for Juan, he had no more notion
 Than he who never saw the Sea of Ocean.¹²² 560

71.

Yet Julia's very Coldness still was kind,
 And tremulously gentle her small hand
 Withdrew itself from his, but left behind
 A little pressure, thrilling, and so bland
 And slight, so very slight, that to the Mind 565
 'Twas but a doubt; but ne'er Magician's wand
 Wrought change with all Armida's fairy art¹²³
 Like what this light touch left on Juan's heart.

72.

And if She met him, though she smiled no more,
 She looked a Sadness sweeter than her smile, 570
 As if her heart had deeper thoughts in store
 She must not own, but cherished more the while,
 For that compression in its burning core;
 Even Innocence itself has many a wile,
 And will not dare to trust itself with truth, 575
 And Love is taught hypocrisy from youth.

73.

But Passion most dissembles yet betrays
 Even by its darkness; as the blackest Sky
 Foretells the heaviest tempest, it displays
 Its workings through the vainly guarded eye, 580
 And in whatever aspect it arrays
 Itself, 'tis still the same Hypocrisy;
 Coldness or Anger, even Disdain or Hate,
 Are masks it often wears, and still too late.

122: for *notion / ocean*, see Dedication stanza 5.

123: *Armida's fairy art*: Armida is a sorceress in Tasso's *Gerusalemme Liberata*, and seduces the crusading hero Rinaldo. She is related to the similar figures of Circe in the *Odyssey*, Dido in the *Aeneid*, and to later figures such as Kundry in Wagner's *Parsifal*. However, where the victims of Armida, Circe, Dido and Kundry all resist heroically, Juan succumbs to Julia without reservation, and only discovery terminates their relationship. Julia is a new model Byronic heroine, designed for ottava rima, like Laura in *Beppo*. The sexual appetites of such earlier female figures, Zuleika, Medora or Gulnare are rarely emphasised, and certainly not satirised.

74.

Then there were sighs, the deeper for suppression, 585
 And stolen glances, sweeter for the theft,
 And burning blushes, though for no transgression,
 Tremblings when met, and restlessness when left;
 All these are little preludes to possession,
 Of which young Passion cannot be bereft, 590
 And merely tend to show how greatly Love is
 Embarrassed at first starting with a Novice.

75.

Poor Julia's heart was in an awkward state;
 She felt it going, and resolved to make
 The noblest efforts for herself and mate,¹²⁴ 595
 For honour's, pride's, religion's, virtue's sake;
 Her resolutions were most truly great,
 And almost might have made a Tarquin quake;¹²⁵
 She prayed the Virgin Mary for her grace,
 As being the best Judge of a Lady's case. 600

76.

She vowed she never would see Juan more,
 And next day paid a visit to his mother,
 And looked extremely at the opening door,
 Which, by the Virgin's Grace, let in another;
 Grateful She was, and yet a little sore – 605
 Again it opens, it can be no other,
 'Tis surely Juan now – No. – I'm afraid
 That night the Virgin was no further prayed.

77.

She now determined that a virtuous woman
 Should rather face and overcome temptation, 610
 That flight was base and dastardly, and no man
 Should ever give her heart the least sensation,
 That is to say, a thought beyond the common
 Preference that we must feel upon occasion,
 For people who are pleasanter than others, 615
 But then they only seem so many brothers. –

124: B. always regarded women's resolution ironically. Compare this canto, 38, 2; or below, XIV, 61, 1.

125: a *Tarquin*: legendary Etruscan kings of Rome. One of them, Tarquinius Superbus, ravished Lucretia. See Shakespeare's poem *The Rape of Lucrece*.

78.

And even if by chance – and who can tell?
 The Devil's so very sly – She should discover
 That all within was not so very well –
 And if still free – that such or such a lover 620
 Might please perhaps – a virtuous wife can quell
 Such thoughts, and be the better when they're over,
 And if the Man should ask, 'tis but denial;
 I recommend young ladies to make trial. –

79.

And then there are things such as Love divine – 625
 Bright, and immaculate, unmixed and pure,
 Such as the Angels think so very fine,
 And Matrons, who would be no less secure,
 Platonic,¹²⁶ perfect, “just such love as mine;”
 Thus Julia said – and thought so, to be sure, 630
 And so I'd have her think, were I the man
 On whom her reveries celestial ran.

80.

Such Love is innocent and may exist
 Between young persons without any danger;
 A hand may first, and then a lip be kist – 635
 For my part to such doings I'm a stranger,
 But *hear* these freedoms form the utmost list
 Of all o'er which such Love may be a ranger;
 If people go beyond, 'tis quite a Crime –
 But not my fault – I tell them all in time. 640

81.

Love, then, but Love within its proper limits,
 Was Julia's innocent determination
 In young Don Juan's favour, and to him its
 Exertion might be useful on occasion,
 And, lighted at too pure a shrine to dim its 645
 Ætherial lustre, with what sweet persuasion
 He might be taught, by Love and her together –
 I really don't know what, nor Julia either.

126: *Platonic:* non-physical; ideal; spiritual: for further thoughts about Platonic love see below, I St.116 and V St.1. Lady Adeline experiences the same delusion relating to Juan below, in Canto XV, st.28.

82.

Fraught with this fine intention, and well fenced
 In mail of proof – her purity of Soul,¹²⁷ 650
 She, for the future of her Strength convinced,
 And that her Honour was a rock, or mole,
 Exceeding sagely from that hour dipsensed
 With any kind of troublesome controul;
 But whether Julia to the task was equal 655
 Is that which must be mentioned in the Sequel.

83.

Her plan she deemed both innocent and feasible,
 And, surely, with a stripling of Sixteen
 Not Scandal's fangs could fix on much that's seizable,
 Or if they did so, satisfied to mean, 660
 Nothing but what was good, her breast was peaceable –
 A quiet Conscience makes one so serene!
 Christians have burnt each other, quite persuaded
 That all the Apostles would have done as they did.

84.

And if in the mean time her husband died, 665
 But Heaven forbid! that such a thought should cross
 Her brain, though in a dream! (and then She sighed)
 Never could she survive that common loss;
 But just suppose that moment should betide,
 I only say suppose it – “inter Nos”¹²⁸ 670
 (This should be “entre Nous”, for Julia thought
 In French, but then the rhyme would go for nought.)

85.

I only say suppose this supposition;
 Juan being then grown up to Man's Estate¹²⁹
 Would fully suit a Widow of Condition; 675
 Even Seven years hence it would not be too late;
 And in the interim (to pursue this vision)
 The Mischief, after all, could not be great,
 For he would learn the Rudiments of Love,
 I mean the Seraph way of those Above. – 680

86.

So much for Julia. Now we'll turn to Juan,

127: A distant model for Julia's dilemma may be that of Lady Booby in Fielding's *Joseph Andrews*, I, 7: “Whither doth this violent Passion hurry us? What Meanness do we submit to from its Impulse? Wisely we resist its first and least Approaches: for it is then only we can assure ourselves the Victory. No Woman could ever safely say, so far only will I go. Have I not exposed myself to the Refusal of my Footman? I cannot bear the Reflection.” Another may be Mirrha, Bibly, or Medea, whose forbidden loves are the subjects of Ovid, *Metamorphoses* VII, IX, and X, and who, the more they argue unanswerably with their instincts, the closer they get to yielding to them.

128: “inter nos” ... “entre Nous”: between ourselves (respectively Latin and French). It is hard to imagine why Julia would say the words at all in the context given, or why she would not say so intimate a thing in Spanish (in which it would be *entre nosotros*).

129: *Man's Estate*: see *Twelfth Night*, concluding song to V i.

Poor little fellow! he had no idea
 Of his own Case, and never hit the true one;
 In feelings quick as Ovid's Miss Medea,¹³⁰
 He puzzled over what he found a new one, 685
 But not as yet imagine it could be a
 Thing quite in course, and not at all alarming,
 Which, with a little patience, might grow charming.

87.

Silent, and pensive, idle, restless, slow,
 His home deserted for the lonely wood,¹³¹ 690
 Tormented with a wound he could not know,
 His, like all deep Grief, plunged in Solitude;
 I'm fond myself of Solitude or so,
 But then, I beg it may be understood,
 By Solitude I mean a Sultan's, not 695
 A Hermit's, with a Haram for a Grot.

130: *Miss Medea*: at the beginning of Ovid's *Metamorphoses* VII, she falls in love with Jason very suddenly and dramatically. See B.'s translation of the opening chorus of Euripides' play (CPW I 284) supposedly composed while he was sitting on one of the Symplegades at the mouth of the Bosphorus:

*O how I wish that an embargo
 Had kept in port the good ship Argo!
 Who, still unlaunch'd from Grecian docks,
 Had never pass'd the Azure rocks;
 But now I fear her trip will be a
 Damn'd business for my Miss Medea, &c. &c.*

131: *Silent and pensive, idle, restless, slow / His home deserted for the lonely wood*: recalls Romeo in I i. For his depiction of such adolescent *angst*, B. had his own memories of Mary Chaworth to remember – but see also Rousseau's *Confessions*, and the emotion the protagonist describes himself as feeling for Madame Basile in Book II.

88.

“Oh Love! in such a Wilderness as this
 “Where Transport and Security entwine,
 “Here is the Empire of thy perfect bliss,
 “And here thou art a God indeed divine.” 700
 The Bard I quote from¹³² does not sing amiss,
 With the exception of the second line,
 For that same twining “Transport and Security”
 Are twisted to a phrase of some Obscurity.

89.

The Poet meant, no doubt, and thus appeals 705
 To the good sense and senses of mankind,
 The very thing which every body feels,
 As all have found on trial, or may find,
 That No one likes to be disturbed at meals
 Or love. I won't say more about “Entwined” 710
 Or “Transport”, as we knew all that before,
 But beg “Security” will bolt the door. –

132: *the Bard*: Thomas Campbell (1777-1844); the lines are from his *Gertrude of Wyoming* (1809: Canto III, 1-4), and introduce a pastoral idyll in which the heroine and her newly-rediscovered lover Henry wander the dales of Pennsylvania (the poem is not set in Wyoming Territory, which was unexplored in 1809). The stanza concludes:

*Here shall no forms abridge, no hours confine,
 The views, the walks, that boundless joy inspire!
 Roll on, ye days of raptured influence, shine!
 Nor, blind with ecstasy's celestial fire,
 Shall love behold the spark of earth-born time expire.*

Gertrude retains her moral purity throughout the poem, finally being killed by Indians during the American Revolution. Hazlitt wrote, “The love scenes in *Gertrude of Wyoming* breathe a balmy voluptuousness of sentiment; but they are generally broken off in the middle; they are like the scent of a bank of violets, faint and rich, which the gale suddenly carries in a different direction” – *Lectures on the English Poets* (1818) p.297. B. became friendly with Campbell in 1811, though he had briefly praised him in *EBSR* (801-2). In his 1813-1814 Journal he laments him as one who could have been an “**agent ... and leader**” (BLJ III 217) though he still rates him only below Scott and Rogers (BLJ III 220). In 1817 he lumps him with himself, Scott, Southey, Wordsworth and Moore as writers who “**are upon a wrong revolutionary poetical system**” (BLJ V 265). Later, however (BLJ VI 47) he makes distinction between Wordsworth and the rest, and earlier in *Don Juan* (Dedication, line 55) he is still referring to Campbell respectfully. However, *Gertrude of Wyoming* is not a poem B. would have read with any great admiration: it offended not only his understanding of the moral and social contexts of love – the point at issue in these lines – but also his passion for topographical and historical credibility. In his Ravenna Journal (BLJ VIII 22) B. writes, “**The secret of Tom Campbell's defence of inaccuracy in costume and description is, that his Gertrude, &c., has no more locality in common with Pennsylvania than with Penmanmaur. It is notoriously full of grossly false scenery, as all Americans declare, though they praise parts of the Poem. It is thus that self-love for ever creeps out, like a snake, to sting anything which happens, even accidentally, to stumble on it.**” Compare below, XIII st.13.

90.

Young Juan wandered by the glassy brooks
 Thinking unutterable things; he threw
 Himself at length within the leafy nooks 715
 Where the wild branch of the cork forest grew;
 There poets find materials for their books,
 And every now and then we read them through,
 So that their plan and prosody are eligible,
 Unless, like Wordsworth, they prove unintelligible.¹³³ 720

91.

He, Juan (and not Wordsworth) so pursued
 His Self-Communion with his own high Soul
 Until his mighty heart, in its great mood,
 Had mitigated part, though not the whole
 Of its disease; he did the best he could 725
 With things not very subject to Controul,
 And turned, without perceiving his condition,
 Like Coleridge, into a Metaphysician.

133: *like Wordsworth ... like Coleridge:* continues the satire in the Dedication, with distantly jesting connections between adolescent metaphysics and adolescent self-abuse, or in the cases of Wordsworth and Coleridge, middle-aged metaphysics (see *Beppo* 618) and self-abuse. Neither “rival poet” wrote any overtly erotic poems – though Coleridge may be thinking in part vaginally at *Kubla Khan* 11-23. Wordsworth references in these stanzas may be, at 723, to *Sonnet: On Westminster Bridge (And all that mighty heart is lying still)* and, *passim*, to *The Excursion* (see above, Dedication line 25) Book I lines 280-300 (*he is The Wanderer*):

*... He asked repose; and, failing oft to win
 The peace required, he scanned the laws of light
 Amid the roar of torrents, where they send
 From hollow clefts up to the clearer air
 A cloud of mists, that smitten by the sun
 Varies its rainbow hues. But vainly thus,
 And vainly by all other means, he strove
 To mitigate the fever of his heart.
 Full often wished he that the winds might rage
 When they were silent: far more fondly now
 Than in his earlier season did he love
 Tempestuous nights – the conflict and the sounds
 That live in darkness. From his intellect
 And from the stillness of abstracted thought
 And thus before his eighteenth year was told,
 Accumulated feelings pressed his heart
 With still increasing weight; he was o'erpowered
 By Nature; by the turbulence subdued
 Of his own mind; by mystery and hope,
 And the first virgin passion of a soul
 Communing with the glorious universe.*

For similar lines about Medea (above, 684) and balloons (below, 734) see below, III sts.93-100.

92.

He thought about himself, and the whole earth,
 Of man the wonderful, and of the Stars, 730
 And how the deuce they ever could have birth;
 And then he thought of Earthquakes, and of Wars,
 How many miles the Moon might have in girth,
 Of Air-balloons, and of the many bars *
 To perfect knowledge of the boundless Skies; 735
 And then he thought of Donna Julia's eyes.

93.

In thoughts like these true Wisdom may discern
 Longings Sublime, and aspirations high,
 Which Some are born with, but the most part learn
 To plague themselves withal, they know not why; 740
 'Twas strange that one so young should thus concern
 His brain about the action of the Sky;
 If *you* think 'twas Philosophy that this did,
 I can't help thinking Puberty assisted. — — —

94.

He pored upon the leaves and on the flowers, 745
 And heard a voice in all the winds, and then¹³⁴
 He thought of wood nymphs and immortal bowers,¹³⁵
 And how the Goddesses came down to men,
 He missed the pathway, he forgot the hours,
 And when he looked upon his watch again; 750
 He found how much old Time had been a winner –
 He also found that he had lost his dinner.

134: *heard a voice in all the Winds*: echoes Gray, *On a Distant Prospect of Eton College* 4, 89: *They* [young Etonians] *hear a voice in every wind, / And snatch a fearful joy*. B. was a Harrovian: see the opening of *Childhood Recollections*. The line also echoes the words of Chérubin to Suzanne at the passage in Act I of Beaumarchais' *Le Mariage de Figaro*, which da Ponte adapted into Cherubino's *No so più*.

135: B. is uncertain, in fair copy, at 756, as to whether or not to use "*Poesy*," indicating that Keats has replaced Wordsworth in the firing-line of the satire. B. had used the archaic word as a simple synonym for *poetry* in his earlier work: it occurs five times in *EBSR*, for instance (62, 105, 500, 789 and 809): but Keats uses it nine times in *Sleep and Poetry* (1817) and four times in *Endymion*, which had been published in May 1818. B. had read *Sleep and Poetry*, and had disliked it, ostensibly, for its attack on Pope (BLJ VIII 104 and n); and it could be that he felt Keats had devalued "*poesy*" somewhat. Starting with *Don Juan* (Dedication, above, line 38) he only uses the word ironically from now on. See below, II 982, or IV 2. The distaste would fit well (a) with Juan's adolescent self-communings and (b) with B.'s well-attested contempt for "**Johnny Keats's p--s a bed poetry**" (BLJ VII 200) "**Onanism of Poetry**" (BLJ VII 217) and so on. The phrase "*immortal bowers*" (747) is to be found at *Endymion* II 448.

95.

Sometimes he turned to gaze upon his book –
 Boscan or Garcilasso;¹³⁶ by the Wind
 Even as the page is rustled while we look, 755
 So by the Poesy of his own Mind
 Over the mystic leaf his Soul was shook,
 As if 'twere one wherein Magicians bind
 Their Spells and give them to the passing Gale,
 According to some good old woman's tale. – 760

96.

Thus would he while his lonely hours away
 Dissatisfied, nor knowing what he wanted;
 Nor glowing Reverie, nor poet's lay,
 Could yield his Spirit that for which it panted –
 A Bosom whereon he his head might lay 765
 And hear the heart beat with the love it granted –
 With – several other things which I forget,
 Or which at least I need not mention yet.

97.

Those lonely walks, and lengthening reveries,
 Could not escape the gentle Julia's eyes; 770
 She saw that Juan was not at his ease;
 But that which chiefly may, and must surprize,
 Is, that the Donna Inez did not tease
 Her only Son with question or surmise;
 Whether it was She did not see, or would not, 775
 Or, like all very clever people, could not. –

98.

This may seem strange, but yet 'tis very common,
 For instance, Gentlemen whose Ladies take
 Leave to o'erstep the written rights of Woman,
 And break the – Which Commandment is't they break?¹³⁷780
 (I have forgot the number, and think No Man
 Should rashly quote, for fear of a mistake)
 I say, when these same Gentlemen are jealous,
 They make some blunder which their Ladies tell us.

136: *Boscan or Garcilasso:* Juan Boscán Almagáver (c. 1495-1542) and Garcilaso de la Vega (1503-36); poets who introduced Petrarchanism to Spain. B. mentions the latter in a letter to Moore (BLJ IX 84) as a “**brother warbler**” whose life was cut short (Garcilaso died in battle).

137: *which commandment is't they break?:* It is the seventh. B. knew his Bible extremely well, and plays games with us here.

99.¹³⁸

A real husband always is suspicious, 785
 But still no less suspects in the wrong place,
 Jealous of some one who had no such wishes,
 Or pandering blindly to his own disgrace
 By harbouring some dear friend extremely vicious;
 The last indeed's infallibly the Case, 790
 And when the Spouse and Friend are gone off wholly
 He wonders at their Vice, and not his Folly. –

100.

Thus parents also are at times shortsighted –
 Though watchful as the Lynx, they ne'er discover
 The while the wicked World beholds delighted 795
 Young Hopeful's mistress, or Miss Fanny's lover –¹³⁹
 Till some confounded Escapade has blighted
 The plan of twenty years, and all is over;
 And then the Mother cries, the Father swears,
 And wonders why the Devil he got heirs.¹⁴⁰ – 800

101.¹⁴¹

But Inez was so anxious, and so Clear
 Of sight, that I must think, on this occasion,
 She had some other motive much more near
 For leaving Juan to this new temptation;
 But what that motive was I shan't say here; 805
 Perhaps to finish Juan's education;
 Perhaps to open Don Alfonso's eyes,
 In case he thought his wife too great a prize.

138: Stanza 99: the insight shown here is in part from *Othello*, in part, perhaps, from B.'s own experience with James Wedderburn Webster and his wife Frances – even though no adultery took place. See BLJ II 126: “His [Webster's] wife is very pretty, & I am much mistaken if five years hence, she don't give him reason to think so. – Knowing the man, one is apt to fancy these things, but I really thought, she treated him already with a due proportion of conjugal contempt, but I daresay this is only the megrim of a Misogynist. – – At present he is the happiest of men, & has asked me to go with them to a tragedy to see his wife cry!” At BLJ III 117 B. writes, still more pertinently, “... I shall have some comic Iagoism with our little Othello [i.e., Webster] – I should have no chance with his Desdemona myself – but a more lively & better dressed & formed personage might in an innocent way.” At BLJ III 135 Webster enters the room while B. is writing (to Lady Melbourne) about the progress of his intrigue; and at III 171 B. writes of Frances Webster as if he is already (November 1813) contemplating her as a model for Donna Julia: “Is not all this a comedy? ... it has enlivened my ethical studies on the human mind beyond 50 volumes – how admirably we accommodate our reasons to our wishes!”

139: *Young Hopeful ... Miss Fanny*: cliché characters from eighteenth-century fiction.

140: Compare below, XII, 33, 8.

141: The portrait of Inez as hypocrite, established in the earlier stanzas of the Canto, is further enhanced here.

102.

It was upon a day, a Summer's day;¹⁴²
 Summer's indeed a very dangerous season, 810
 And so is Spring about the end of May;
 The Sun, no doubt, is the prevailing reason;¹⁴³
 But whatsoe'er the cause is, One may say,
 And stand convicted of more truth than treason,
 That there are Months which Nature grows more merry in, 815
 March has its hares, and May must have its heroine.

103.

'Twas on a Summer's day – the Sixth of June –
 I like to be particular in dates,
 Not only of the age, and year, but Moon;
 They are a sort of posthouse, where the Fates 820
 Change horses, making History change its tune,
 Then spur away o'er empires and o'er states,
 Leaving at last not much much besides Chronology,
 Excepting the Post-Obits of Theology.¹⁴⁴

104.

'Twas on the Sixth of June, about the hour 825
 Of half-past six – perhaps Still nearer Seven,
 When Julia sate within as pretty a bower
 As e'er held Houri in that Heathenish heaven
 Described by Mahomet, and Anacreon Moore,¹⁴⁵
 To whom the Lyre and Laurels have been given, 830
 With all the trophies of triumphant Song –
 He won them well, and may he wear them long! –

142: *It was upon a day*: B. sets up a cliché romantic expectation, but the reader (i) knows the intention is comic and (ii) B. does not reach his climax for 124 lines.

143: *The Sun*: a Byronic cliché itself: see Stanzas 63-4 above.

144: *Post-Obits*: bonds to be paid after death: here, divine retribution for carnal sin. The phrase is soon used again, below at line 1000 of this Canto.

145: *Houri ... Heathenish heaven / ... Mahomet, and Anacreon Moore*: a houri is a maiden whose job is to minister to men in the Islamic paradise; the reference relies in part on Julia as a Moorish Armida (see above, 443n and 567n). Thomas Moore (see above, Dedication, 55n) was a poet whom B., at least publicly, admired. He had in 1800 translated the Odes of Anacreon (see above, 330n) and wrote of Moghul-Islamic and Zoroastrian love in *Lalla Rookh* (written by 1814, but published in 1817, the year before B. wrote these stanzas). B. claimed to have been especially influenced by the mild eroticism of Moore's *The Poetical Works of the Late Thomas Little* (1801): **"I knew it by heart in 1803, being then in my fifteenth summer. Heigho! I believe all the mischief I have ever done, or sung, has been owing to that confounded book of yours"** (BLJ VII 117). B. could not wait for *Lalla Rookh* to be published (see BLJ V 186, 227) but although he congratulated Moore on its success (BLJ V 249-50, VI 11) his real estimate of it is hard to fathom (see letter to Murray at BLJ V 265). He said that he would not let his own daughters read it (BLJ VIII 140) firstly because he thought it **"more dangerous"** (morally) than *Don Juan* (see BLJ VI 232, 140); secondly (he wrote to Moore – BLJ VIII 140) **"that they mayn't discover that there was a better poet than papa."** As *Lalla Rookh* preaches nothing but chaste monogamy (Moore was a Catholic) and as it has been as completely forgotten as *Gertrude of Wyoming*, we may suspect B.'s critical sincerity on both scores. The scene about to played here has no parallel in Moore.

105.

She sate, but not alone; I know not well
 How this same interview had taken place,
 And even if I knew, I should not tell – 835
 People should hold their tongues in any case;
 No matter how or why the thing befell,
 But there were She and Juan, face to face –
 When two such faces are so, 'twould be wise,
 But very difficult, to shut their Eyes. – – – 840

106.

How beautiful She looked! her conscious heart
 Glowed in her cheek, and yet She felt no wrong;
 Oh Love! how perfect is thy mystic Art,
 Strengthening the weak, and trampling on the strong –
 How Self-deceitful is the sagest part 845
 Of Mortals whom thy Lure hath led along –
 The Precipice She stood on was immense;
 So was her Creed in her own Innocence. –

107.

She thought of her own Strength, and Juan's Youth,
 And of the folly of all prudish fears, 850
 Victorious Virtue, and domestic Truth,
 And then of Don Alfonso's fifty years;
 I wish that these last had not occurred, in sooth,
 Because that Number rarely much endears,
 And through all climes, the snowy and the Sunny, 855
 Sounds ill in Love, whate'er it may in Money. – –

108.

When people say, "I've told you *fifty* times",
 They mean to scold, and very often do;
 When Poets say, "I've written *fifty* rhymes",
 They make you dread that they'll recite them too; 860
 In gangs of *fifty* – thieves commit their crimes;
 At *fifty* Love for Love is rare, 'tis true,¹⁴⁶
 But then, no doubt, it equally as true is,
 A good deal may be bought for *fifty* Louis. –¹⁴⁷

146: *Love for Love*: title of a comedy by William Congreve, first produced 1695; although it is not clear that B. is referring to the play.

147: *fifty Louis*: a Louis d'or was a French coin, either pre-revolutionary or modern. In Book VIII of his *Confessions*, Rousseau tells of how he spent "fifty louis" on catheters to ease his bladder trouble.

109.

Julia had honour, virtue, truth, and love, 865
 For Don Alfonso; and She inly swore,
 By all the vows below to powers above,
 She never would disgrace the ring She wore
 Nor leave a wish which Wisdom might reprove;
 And while She pondered this, besides much more, 870
 One hand on Juan's carelessly was thrown,
 Quite by Mistake – She thought it was her own;

110.¹⁴⁸

Unconsciously She leaned upon the other,
 Which played within the tangles of her hair;
 And to contend with thoughts She could not smother, 875
 She seemed by the distraction of her air;¹⁴⁹
 'Twas surely very wrong in Juan's mother
 To leave together this imprudent pair,
 She who for many years had watched her son so –
 I'm very certain *Mine* would not have done so. – 880

111.

The hand which still held Juan's, by degrees
 Gently, but palpably confirmed its grasp,
 As if it said, "Detain me, if you please";
 Yet there's no doubt She only meant to clasp
 His fingers with a pure Platonic Squeeze;¹⁵⁰ 885
 She would have shrunk as from a toad, or Asp,
 Had She imagined such a thing could rouse
 A feeling dangerous to a prudent Spouse.

112.

I cannot know what Juan thought of this,
 But what he did, is much what you would do; 890
 His young lip thanked it with a grateful kiss,
 And then, abashed at its own joy, withdrew
 In deep despair, lest he had done amiss,
 Love is so very timid when 'tis new:
 She blushed, and frowned not, but She strove to speak, 895
 And held her tongue, her Voice was grown so weak.

148: The repeated "*she*"s which refer indiscriminately to Julia and Inez, plus the reference to the narrator's own mother, increase the Oedipal excitement of the passage.

149: *And to contend with thoughts she could not smother, / She seemed by the distraction of her air:* The syntax is revealed by inverting the lines: *She seemed, by the distraction of her air, to contend with thoughts she could not smother.*

150: *Platonic squeeze:* a contradiction in terms. See above, 629n.

113.

The Sun set, and up rose the yellow Moon:
 The Devil's in the Moon for mischief; they
 Who called her CHASTE,¹⁵¹ methinks, began too soon
 Their Nomenclature; there is not a day, 900
 The longest, not the twenty-first of June,¹⁵²
 Sees half the business in a wicked way
 On which three single hours of Moonshine smile –
 And then She looks so modest all the while. –

114.

There is a dangerous Silence in that hour,¹⁵³ 905
 A stillness, which leaves room for the full Soul
 To open all itself, without the power
 Of calling wholly back its Self controul;
 The Silver Light which, hallowing tree and tower,
 Sheds beauty and deep Softness o'er the whole, 910
 Breathes also to the Heart, and o'er it throws
 A loving languor, which is not repose. –

115.

And Julia sate with Juan, half embraced
 And half retiring from the glowing arm,
 Which trembled like the bosom where 'twas placed; 915
 Yet still She must have thought there was no harm,
 Or else 'twere easy to withdraw her waist;
 But then the Situation had its charm,
 And then – God knows what next – I can't go on;
 I'm almost sorry that I e'er begun.¹⁵⁴ 920

151: *they / Who called her CHASTE:* the moon is conventionally a chaste goddess. See *A Midsummer Night's Dream* II i 162, or III i, final speech.

152: *the twenty-first of June:* Midsummer Night. Shakespeare's comedy is a distant subtext here: see below, this Canto, 994-6 and n.

153: *that hour:* see also below, Canto III Sts.101 - 108.

154: *I'm almost sorry that I e'er begun:* the facetiousness implicates both B. and the reader in the erotic game he, they, Juan and Julia are all playing.

116.

Oh! Plato! Plato! You have paved the way,¹⁵⁵
 With your confounded phantasies, to more
 Immoral conduct by the fancied Sway
 Your System feigns o'er the controulless Core
 Of human hearts, than all the long Array 925
 Of poets and romancers: – You're a Bore,
 A Charlatan, a Coxcomb – and have been,
 At best, no better than a Go-between. –

117.¹⁵⁶

And Julia's Voice was lost, except in Sighs,
 Until too late for useful conversation; 930
 The tears were gushing from her gentle eyes –
 I wish indeed they had not had occasion –
 But who, Alas! can love, and then be wise?
 Not that Remorse did not oppose temptation,
 A little still She strove, and much repented, 935
 And whispering "I will ne'er consent" – consented. –

155: *Plato!*: the implication that conventionally Platonic love (see above, 629 and n) is the summation of all that Plato said, and that Plato is thus the universal canting pimp of posterity, may quickly be refuted by reading the *Symposium*. It seems B. read very little Plato. However, the conjunction of the high-minded book and the sin may echo the famous passage in Dante's *Inferno*, Canto V 127-38, where Francesca di Rimini relates how she and her lover Paolo (now bound together in Hell) first committed adultery after reading the tale of Lancelot and Guinevere:

*Noi leggiavamo un giorno per diletto
 di Lancialotto come amor lo strinse:
 soli eravamo e senza alcun sospetto.
 Per più fiate li occhi ci sospinse
 quella lettura, e scolorocci il viso;
 ma solo un punto fu quel che ci vinse.
 Quando leggemmo il disiato riso
 esser baciato da cotanto amante,
 questi, che mai da me non fia diviso,
 la bocca mi baciò tutto tremante.
 Galeotto fu il libro e chi lo scrisse:
 quel giorno non vi leggemmo avante.*

[“One day we were reading, for pleasure, of Lancelot, and of how Love constrained him. We were alone, and had no misgiving. Many times, as we read, our eyes met, and our faces changed colour: but one point only defeated us. When we read how the longed-for smile was kissed by so great a lover, he, who now shall never be separated from me, kissed my mouth all trembling. The book was a Galeotto, and so was he that wrote it. That day we read no further.”] A Galeotto is a pander. The linking of carnal transgression and the torments of hell is one B. would want us to have in mind here, even as he entertains and tempts us at the same time with his serio-comic-erotico-verse. Both Campbell and Moore (see above, sts.89 and 104) are being implicitly rebuked for their sentimentality and lack of moral realism. See for further examples, above, I 196n; and below, st.119, marginal comment.

156: Notice the poetic cunning whereby Julia is allowed to remain chaste until the very last word.

118.

'Tis said that Xerxes offered a reward¹⁵⁷
 To those who could invent him a new pleasure;
 Methinks the Requisition's rather hard,
 And must have cost his Majesty a treasure; 940
 For my part, I'm a moderate-minded Bard,
 Fond of a little love (which I call leisure)
 I care not for new pleasures, as the old
 Are quite enough for me, so they but hold.

119.

Oh! Pleasure! you're indeed a pleasant thing,¹⁵⁸ 945
 Although one must be damned for you, no doubt;
 I make a resolution every Spring¹⁵⁹
 Of reformation, ere the Year run out,
 But – somehow – this my Vestal vow takes wing,¹⁶⁰
 Yet still I trust it may be kept throughout; 950
 I'm very sorry, very much ashamed –
 And mean, next winter, to be quite reclaimed.¹⁶¹

PROOF: Hobhouse writes in the right-hand margin next to Stanza 119 (referring to line 946) **you certainly will be damned for all this scene[.]** Byron erases with two diagonal strokes.

120.

Here my chaste Muse a liberty must take –
 Start not! still chaster Reader – She'll be nice hence-
 -forward, and there is no great cause to quake; 955
 This Liberty is a poetic licence,
 Which some irregularity may make
 In the design, and as I have a high sense
 Of Aristotle and the Rules,¹⁶² 'tis fit
 To beg his pardon when I err a bit. – 960

157: *Xerxes*: King of Persia (519-465 BC) slowed by the Spartans at Thermopylae and defeated by the Athenians at Salamis and Plataea, and thus a prominent member of B.'s historical bestiary, is said to have offered a reward to anyone who could invent him a new pleasure. See also below, II 1435 and III 707-12. Montaigne (*Essais*) Cicero (*Tusculan Disputations*) and Valerius Maximus (*Factorum Dictorumque Memorabilium*) are variously cited as sources by DJP, although there's presumably no reason why B. could not have heard the legend in conversation.

158: Echoes line 921 above.

159: *I make a resolution every Spring*: compare below, II 291-2. The line is inspired perhaps by Bob Southey's annual epic (see below, III 867-8). On every birthday in his diary (on June 27) Hobhouse made a vow of self-improvement similar to the lines here.

160: *Vestal*: virginal.

161: Compare below, XV, 94, 4: ... *I'll begin a thorough reformation* ...

162: *Aristotle and the Rules*: in the *Poetics* (see also below, III 984) Aristotle sums up the best practise of epic poets. B. in fact habitually transgresses some of the rules; an objection he defies us to make. Here is Aristotle, for instance: *The [epic] poet should speak as little as possible in his own person, for it is not in that way that he represents actions* (*Poetics*, 24). At other points, for example in Juan's shipwreck in Canto II, where he makes the impossible seem probable (see again *Poetics*, 24) B. may seem to adhere to the rules: but we should view neither his adherence to them as deliberate nor his avoidance of them as wilful. As with the reference to Horace at 41-2 above, his nod here in the direction of classical precedent is largely humbug (although this does not make *Don Juan* any less of an epic.)

121.

This licence is to hope the reader will
 Suppose from June the Sixth (the fatal day,
 Without whose Epoch my poetic Skill
 For want of facts would all be thrown away)
 But keeping Julia and Don Juan still 965
 In sight, that several months have passed; we'll say
 'Twas in November, but I'm not so sure
 About the day – the Æra's more obscure. – – – ¹⁶³

122.¹⁶⁴

We'll talk of that anon. 'Tis sweet to hear
 At Midnight on the blue and Moonlit deep 970
 The Song and oar of Adria's Gondolier,¹⁶⁵
 By distance mellowed, o'er the waters sweep;
 'Tis sweet to see the Evening Star appear;
 'Tis sweet to listen as the Nightwinds Creep
 From leaf to leaf; 'tis sweet to view on high 975
 The Rainbow, based on Ocean, span the Sky.¹⁶⁶

123.

'Tis sweet to hear the Watchdog's honest bark¹⁶⁷
 Bay deep-mouthed welcome as we draw near home;
 'Tis sweet to know there is an eye will mark
 Our coming, and look brighter when we come; 980
 'Tis sweet to be awakened by the Lark,
 Or lulled by falling waters; sweet the Hum
 Of Bees, the voice of Girls, the song of Birds,
 The Lisp of Children, and their earliest words.

124.¹⁶⁸

Sweet is the Vintage, when the showering grapes 985
 In Bacchanal profusion reel to Earth
 Purple and Gushing: — Sweet are our escapes
 From Civic revelry to rural mirth;
 Sweet to the Miser are his glittering heaps,
 Sweet to the father is his first-born's birth, 990
 Sweet is revenge – especially to women,
 Pillage to Soldiers, prize-money to Seamen.

125.

Sweet is a legacy, and passing sweet

163: *I'm not so sure / About the day - the Æra's more obscure:* B. aims always in the poem at a pernickety accuracy in dating his events.

164: Stanzas 122-7 are a virtuoso list of comparisons, the first of many such in the poem, used here to illustrate the experience of first love. For a more economical example see below, II st.6 (also n) II sts.91-2, II st.148, II st.196 and III st.66. Only II st.196 is entirely without bathos.

165: *Adria's Gondolier:* on the Adriatic, at Venice, where B. wrote this Canto. See *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*, IV st.3, for a lament for their silence and *Beppo*, sts.19-20, for an analysis of their usefulness.

166: *The Rainbow:* but see below, II sts.91-3.

167: *the Watchdog's honest bark:* a *deep-mouthed watch-dog*, at *hollow distance* appears at *The Vicar of Wakefield*, 22 (just before the protagonist's house burns down): see also below, III 184 and n.

168: Compare *Beppo*, sts.42-3.

The unexpected death of some old Lady
 Or Gentleman of seventy years complete, 995
 Who've made "us youth"¹⁶⁹ wait too – too long already
 For a estate, or cash, or country-seat,
 Still breaking, but with Stamina so steady,
 That all the Israelites are fit to mob its¹⁷⁰
 Next owner for their double-damned Post-Obits. –¹⁷¹ 1000

126.

'Tis sweet to win, no matter how, one's laurels
 By blood or ink; 'tis sweet to put an end
 To Strife; 'tis sometimes sweet to have our quarrels,
 Particularly with a tiresome friend;
 Sweet is old wine in bottles, ale in barrels; 1005
 Dear is the helpless creature we defend
 Against the World, and dear the Schoolboy Spot¹⁷²
 We ne'er forget, though there we are forgot.

127.

But sweeter still than this, than these, than all,
 Is first and passionate Love¹⁷³ – it stands alone, 1010
 Like Adam's recollection of his fall;¹⁷⁴
 The tree of Knowledge has been plucked – all's known –
 And Life yields nothing further to recall
 Worthy of this Ambrosial Sin, so shown,
 No doubt in fable, as the unforgiven 1015
 Fire, which Prometheus filched for us from heaven.¹⁷⁵

169: *Who've made "us youth" wait too – too long already:* a double recollection: "**us youth**" is B.'s favourite Shakespearean quotation; it occurs more often in his letters than any other (see BLJ III 15, 160, 161, 250, IV 115, VI 60, 200, VII 231) and is part of Falstaff's cry (*They hate us youth!*) as he ambushes the travellers on Gad's Hill, at *Henry IV i II ii* 85. The irony is (i) against Falstaff, who is no youth, and (ii) against B., who is no youth either. A doomed, Byronic version of Falstaff can be sensed subtextually beneath much of the poem. The quotation is here combined with a covert quotation from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, I i 5-6: *like to a stepdame or a dowager, / Long withering out a young man's revenue*. The autobiographical reference is to B.'s eagerness to see off his mother-in-law, Lady Noel, half of whose estate he was awarded at her death in 1822.

170: *Israelites:* Jewish moneylenders.

171: *Post-Obits:* see above, 824n.

172: *the helpless creature ... the Schoolboy spot:* B.'s schoolfriends William Harness and the Earl of Clare, and such spots as Byron's Pool on the Cam, may be the autobiographical references here.

173: *first and passionate love:* B.'s first loves were for Mary Chaworth and Margaret Parker. He suffered especially on account of the first. See below, Canto V st.4.

174: *Adam's ... fall:* Juan has now fallen too, though see above, 196 and n.

175: *Prometheus:* he stole fire from heaven to give to man, and was punished by the gods, as Adam and Eve were for their similarly primal transgression. The two references at once bring Juan's more commonplace experience up to the epic level of Adam and Prometheus, and level their experience down to the mundanity of his.

128.¹⁷⁶

Man's a strange Animal, and makes strange use
 Of his own Nature, and the various arts,
 And likes particularly to produce
 Some new experiment to show his parts; 1020
 This is the age of Oddities let loose;
 Where different talents find their different Marts,
 You'd best begin with truth, and when you've lost your
 Labour, there's a sure market for Imposture. –

129. *

What opposite discoveries we have seen! 1025
 (Signs of true Genius, and of Empty pockets);
 One makes new noses,¹⁷⁷ One a guillotine,
 One breaks your bones, one sets them in their sockets;
 But Vaccination certainly has been
 A kind Antithesis to Congreve's Rockets,¹⁷⁸ 1030
 With which the Doctor paid off an old pox¹⁷⁹
 By borrowing a new One from an Ox. –

PROOF: At 1031 Hobhouse underlines **old pox** and writes in the right-hand margin, **Mon cher ne touchez pas à la petite Verole** (My dear, don't refer to the smallpox). Byron erases with three vertical lines and one diagonal.

176: Sts.128-32 are a series of jokes about Thomas Malthus' *Essay on the Principle of Population* (1798, several subsequent editions) which suggested, among much else, that disease keeps the population down. The following passage (*Essay*, ed. Flew, p.130-1) is "versified" in the two present stanzas: ... *a candid investigation of these subjects* [human perfectibility and even immortality] *accompanied by a perfect readiness to adopt any theory warranted by sound philosophy, may have a tendency to convince them* ["ingenious and able men" – Malthus' polemic is against William Godwin] *that in forming improbable and unfounded hypotheses, so far from enlarging the bounds of human science, they are contracting it, so far from promoting the improvement of the human mind, they are obstructing it; they are throwing us back again almost into the infancy of knowledge and weakening the foundations of that mode of philosophising, under the auspices of which science has of late made such rapid advances. The present rage for wide and unrestrained speculation seems to be a kind of mental intoxication, arising, perhaps, from the great and unexpected discoveries which have been made of late years, in various branches of science. To men elate and giddy with such success, every thing appeared to be within the grasp of human powers; and, under this illusion, they confounded subjects where no real progress could be proved with those where the progress had been marked, certain, and acknowledged. Could they be persuaded to sober themselves with a little severe and chastised thinking, they would see, that the cause of truth, and of sound philosophy, cannot but suffer by substituting wild flights and unsupported assertions for patient investigation, and well authenticated proofs.* B. is concerned to "show" that so far from progressing, science (see Malthus) merely counters each advance with another invention designed to neutralise its effect. He is thus "with" Malthus and "against" such utopians as Godwin (whose work influenced, among others, Shelley and Southey). For more references to Malthus, see below, XI 239, XII 108 and 160; or XV sts.37-8.

177: one makes new noses: an American doctor called Benjamin Perkins claimed to be able to refurbish noses which had become reddened – or had sunken in. See Gillray's 1801 cartoon *Metallic Tractors*.

178: Congreve's Rockets: bright, noisy ones, used to great psychological effect at the Battle of Leipzig in 1813.

179: the Doctor: Dr Edward Jenner introduced smallpox inoculation in 1796.

130.

Bread has been made (indifferent) from potatoes,¹⁸⁰
 And Galvanism has set some Corpses grinning,¹⁸¹
 But has not answered like the Apparatus 1035
 Of the Humane Society's beginning,¹⁸²
 By which Men are unsuffocated Gratis;¹⁸³
 What wondrous new Machines have late been Spinning!
 I said the Small pox has gone out of late –
 Perhaps it may be followed by the Great.¹⁸⁴ 1040

PROOF: In the right-hand margin next to 1039-40, Hobhouse underlines **great**, and puts four verticals next to it. He writes, **Put out these but keep the other lines[.]** Byron erases with two verticals and two diagonals. Then, next to 1047-8, Hobhouse writes, **oh, did I ever no I never!!**¹⁸⁵ Byron erases with five verticals and two diagonals.

131.

'Tis said the Great came from America,¹⁸⁶
 Perhaps it may set out in its return;
 The Population there so spreads, they say,
 'Tis grown high time to thin it in its turn
 With War, or Plague, or Famine, Any Way,¹⁸⁷ 1045
 So that Civilization they may learn,
 And Which in ravage the more loathsome Evil is –
 Their real Lues, or our Pseudo-Syphilis. — — — —¹⁸⁸

180: *Bread has been made (indifferent) from potatoes: the use of the potato ... did, in fact, enable the workers to survive on the lowest possible wage. It may be that in this way the potato prolonged and encouraged, for another hundred years, the impoverishment and degradation of the English masses; but what was the alternative, surely nothing but bloody revolution. That England escaped such a violent upheaval in the early decades of the nineteenth century ... must in large measure be placed to the credit of the potato.* (Salaman, *The History and Social Influence of the Potato*, quoted E.P.Thompson, *The Making of the English Working Class*, p. 348.) Compare below, XV, 37, 7.

181: *Galvanism:* passing electric currents through corpses to produce movement was a sensational scientific concept in B.'s time. Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* relies on the idea in part.

182: *the Humane Society:* The Royal Humane Society, for the rescue of drowning persons, was founded in 1774.

183: *desuffocated Gratis:* revived from drowning for no fee.

184: *the Great:* syphilis. B. had caught gonorrhoea at Venice in 1817; Hobhouse in Cadiz in 1809.

185: **Hobhouse's comment:** this exclamation seems to have been a Byron / Hobhouse in-joke, signifying exaggerated moral outrage. See BLJ V 198, where B. places it after Plagiary's line quoted above, 409-10. He underlines *Did, ever, and never*. See also *Beppo*, 735.

186: *from America:* syphilis was said to have come to Europe in 1492. See Malthus, *Essay* ed. Flew, p.74: *In the United States of America, where the means of subsistence are more ample, the manners of the people more pure [see Gertrude of Wyoming, passim] and consequently the checks to early marriages fewer, than in any of the modern states of Europe, the population has been found to double itself in twenty-five years.*

187: B. to Augusta: "... Malthus tells us that were it not for Battle, Murder, and Sudden death, we should be overstocked ..." (BLJ II 74).

188: *real Lues ... Pseudo-Syphilis:* syphilis (lues venerea) and smallpox. Hobhouse's diary code for signalling infection was "luem minmem ... lues pergavis."

132.

This is the patent-Age of new Inventions,
 For killing bodies, and for saving Souls, 1050
 All propagated with the best intentions;
 Sir Humphrey Davy's lanthorn, by which Coals¹⁸⁹
 Are safely mined for in the mode he mentions;
 Tombuctoo travels, Voyages to the Poles,¹⁹⁰
 Are ways to benefit Mankind as true, 1055
 Perhaps, as shooting them at Waterloo. –

133.¹⁹¹

Man's a phenomenon, one knows not what,
 And wonderful beyond all wondrous measure;
 'Tis pity though, in this Sublime world, that
 Pleasure's a Sin, and sometimes Sin's a pleasure; 1060
 Few Mortals know what end they would be at,
 But whether Glory, Power, or Love, or Treasure,
 The path is through perplexing ways, and when
 The Goal is gained, we die, you know, and then –

189: *Sir Humphrey Davy's lanthorn*: he invented his safety lamp for miners in 1815. The implication may be that the miners worked in such appalling conditions that they died prematurely anyway, and Davy's invention merely prolonged the agony. The context does not invite an unambiguously positive reading. B. was involved for much of his life in a lawsuit relating to the ownership of collieries near Rochdale.

190: *Tombuctoo travels, Voyages to the Poles*: the African interior and the North Polar regions were beginning to be explored at this time, and B. would have read about them in John Murray's *Quarterly Review*. In the number for January 1816 an article on "Tombuctoo" appeared (pp.453-73) between reviews of Hobhouse's *Letters from Paris* and Hunt's *Rimini*. In October 1816 was another (pp.1-27) on Africa, and in the same number – just before Scott's review of *CHP III* and *PoC* – yet another on Polar exploration. In the January 1817 number (pp 287-321) was a second "Tombuctoo" article; in April 1817 (pp.1-39) there was another Polar account. In July 1817 – the volume which reviewed Malthus' *Essay* – was another African article (pp.299-338); and the October 1817 number carried (pp.199-223) another review of a Polar book. The January 1818 number sandwiched (pp.335-79) an African account between reviews of Hunt's *Foliage*, and *Frankenstein*; and the April 1818 had a Polar account between reviews of Keats' *Endymion* and *CHP IV*.

191: St.133: for similar thoughts, but in a different idiom, compare *CHP IV* st.125 (written 1817):

*Few – none – find what they love or could have loved,
 Though accident, blind contact, and the strong
 Necessity of loving, have removed
 Antipathies – but to recur, ere long,
 Envenom'd with irrevocable wrong;
 And Circumstance, that unspiritual god
 And miscreator, makes and helps along
 Our coming evils with a crutch-like rod,
 Whose touch turns Hope to dust, - the dust we all have trod.*

In ottava rima B. can speak both positively and pessimistically at once.

134.

What then? – I do not know, no more do you – 1065
 And so Good Night. – Return we to our story.¹⁹²
 'Twas in November, when fine days are few,
 And the far Mountains wax a little hoary,
 And clap a white cape on their Mantles blue,¹⁹³
 And the Sea dashes round the promontory, 1070
 And the loud breaker boils against the Rock,
 And sober Suns must set at five o'clock. —

135.

'Twas, as the watchmen say, a cloudy Night;
 No moon, no stars, the Wind was low or loud
 By gusts, and many a sparkling hearth was bright 1075
 With the piled wood, round which the family crowd:
 There's something cheerful in that sort of light,
 Even as a Summer's Sky's without a Cloud;
 I'm fond of fire, and Crickets, and all that,
 A Lobster–Sallad, and Champagne, and Chat.¹⁹⁴ 1080

PROOF: At 1080 the printer has **lobster, salad**. Byron inks a double hyphen over the comma, and writes, **Lobster=sallad – not a lobster, salad – – have you been at a London ball? and not know a lobster=sallad[?]** In a letter of November 6th 1820 (BB 302) Hobhouse writes “Lobsters – Champagne” and underlines the first word three times.

192: *What then? – I do not know, no more do you - / And so Good Night. – Return we to our story:* compare below, XI 153: *But Tom's no more – and so no more of Tom.*

193: *Mantles blue:* echoes Milton's *Lycidas*, penultimate line: *At last he rose, and twitch'd his mantle blew.* B.'s re-writing indicates a deliberate choice of phrase.

194: ... *all that, / ... and Chat:* B. borrows his rhymes here from Pope, *The Rape of the Lock*, III 17-18: *Snuff, or the Fan, supply each Pause of Chat, / With singing, laughing, ogling, and all that.* In a letter to Lady Melbourne of 25 September 1812 he writes “... **a woman should never be seen eating or drinking, unless it be lobster sallad & Champagne, the only truly feminine & becoming viands**” (BLJ II 208). In March 1813 Lady Melbourne writes to him, *I wish'd for you at Supper - tho' we had neither Lobster Sallad nor Champaign ...* (Gross 138). See also *The Blues*, II 158.

BYRON ON PAGE 59 OF HIS GALIGNANI COPY: Venice. / 1819. Nov. 8th. – The Countess G[uiccioli]. – this evening asked me {by mere chance} to translate this stanza – I told her that <it was only the exclamation of a servant who said> {the whole meant only} “<the> your husband <is/>is coming” as I <translated> {said this} with some emphasis – She started up {frightened} and said “oh my God is he come?” thinking it was *her own* – who then was or ought to have been at the theatre. – Byron Nov. 8th – – Venice 1819 – – ¹⁹⁵

136.¹⁹⁶

'Twas Midnight – Donna Julia was in bed,
 Sleeping, most probably, when at her door
 Arose a clatter might awake the dead,
 If they had never been awake before,
 And that they have been so we all have read, 1085
 And are to be so, at the least, once more –
 The door was fastened, but with voice and fist
 First knocks were heard, then “Madam – Madam – hist! —

137.

“For Godsake, Madam – Madam – here’s my Master,
 “With more than half the City at his back – 1090
 “Was ever heard of such a curst disaster!
 “’Tis not my fault – I kept good watch – Alack!
 “Do, pray, undo the bolt a little faster –
 “They’re on the stair just now, and in a crack
 “Will all be here; perhaps he yet may fly – 1095
 “Surely the Window’s not so *very* high!” —

195 MARGINALIUM: see also B. to Murray, November 8 1819 (BLJ VI 239): “Tonight as Countess G[uiccioli]. observed me poring over ‘Don Juan’ she stumbled by mere chance on the 138th. Stanza of the first Canto – and asked me what it meant – I told her – nothing but “your husband is coming” as I said this in Italian with some emphasis – she started up in a fright and said – “*Oh my God – is he coming?*” thinking it was *her own* who either was or ought to have been at the theatre. – – You will be amused as I was – it happened not three hours ago.” For more of B.’s comments in his Galignani edition, see below, Canto II sts.49 and 208.

196: Sts.136-87: B. may have known Mozart’s *Le Nozze di Figaro*, in which a scene similar to this one occurs in Act II, where Cherubino (a page, but sung by a female mezzo) hides from the Count in the Countess’s cupboard. And he certainly knew *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, where, in III iii, the pathologically jealous Ford ransacks his wife’s room, with a gang of his friends. Here are some speeches from Shakespeare’s comedy (III iii 92-104) which are echoed in Stanza 137: **Mrs Page:** *Your husband’s coming hither, woman, with all the officers in Windsor, to search for a gentleman that he says is here now in the house, by your consent, to take an ill advantage of his absence.* **Mrs Ford:** *’Tis not so, I hope.* **Mrs Page:** *Pray Heaven it be not so that you have such a man here; but ’tis most certain your husband’s coming, with half Windsor at his heels, to search for such a one. I come before to tell you. If you know yourself clear, why, I am glad of it; but if you have a friend here, convey, convey him out. Be not amazed; call all your senses to you; defend your reputation, or bid farewell to your good life for ever.* However, B.’s joke lies in changing the ethics of the scene: Mrs Page, unlike Antonia, is acting a pre-arranged part, and both Mrs Ford and the Countess (in *Figaro*) are innocent. Compare below, XIII, 12, 1.

B. had already treated love-triangles, featuring two young persons and a jealous older man, in *The Bride of Abydos* (1813) *The Corsair* (1814) *Parisina* (1816) and *Mazeppa* (1818 – for which see also below, commentary to Canto II st.112). The nexus features in *Don Juan* several times again: Juan / Haidee / Lambro; Juan / Gulbeyaz / the Sultan; and the unresolved Juan / Lady Adeline / Lord Henry Amundeville. See notes below to Canto IV, l.280, Canto V, ll.1244-5, and Canto XIII l.112.

138.

By this time Don Alfonso was arrived,
 With torches, friends, and servants in great number;
 The major part of them had long been wived,¹⁹⁷
 And therefore paused not to disturb the Slumber 1100
 Of any wicked woman, who contrived
 By stealth her husband's temples to encumber;¹⁹⁸
 Examples of this kind are so contagious,
 Were *One* not punished, *all* would be outrageous. –

139.

I can't tell how, or why, or what Suspicion 1105
 Could enter into Don Alfonso's head;
 But for a Cavalier of his condition
 It surely was exceedingly ill-bred
 Without a word of previous admonition,
 To hold a Levee round his Lady's bed,¹⁹⁹ 1110
 And summon Lackeys, armed with fire and sword,
 To prove himself the thing he most abhorred. –²⁰⁰

140.²⁰¹

Poor Donna Julia, starting as from sleep,
 (Mind – that I do not say – She had not slept)
 Began at once to scream, and yawn, and weep, 1115
 Her Maid Antonia,²⁰² who was an adept,
 Contrived to fling the bed-clothes in a heap,
 As if she had just now from out them crept;
 I can't tell why She should take all this trouble
 To prove her Mistress had been sleeping double. – 1120

197: *torches, friends, and servants in great number; / The major part of them had long been wived:* a further echo of *The Merry Wives* III iii, where Ford brings along to assist him Master Page, whose wife is also an object of Falstaff's lust (although the less pathological Page doesn't know it) as well as Sir Hugh Evans and Dr. Caius, as assistants, and, more importantly, witnesses to his humiliation. See 1112n.

198: *her husband's temples to encumber:* with a cuckold's horns. Compare below, III 271-2.

199: *Levee:* daily ceremony at a monarch's awakening - normally, however, in the morning.

200: *To prove himself the thing he most abhorred:* the strange masochistic desire to know oneself cuckolded is a Shakespearean commonplace; B. draws on the tradition not only of Ford but of Othello, Posthumus Leonatus, and Leontes. Behind them all is Thorello / Kitely in Ben Jonson's *Every Man in his Humour*.

201 SOURCES: For a further discussion of the numerous fictional antecedents to this scene, see Elizabeth Boyd, *Byron's Don Juan: a Critical Study* pp.114-15, and Peter Vassallo, *Byron: The Italian Literary Influence* pp.77-81. The theme of the cuckold's unexpected return is in both books adduced ultimately as being from Apuleius, *The Golden Ass* (second century A.D.) though B. inherited it from the Roman work via Boccaccio (for examples, *Decameron*, seventh day, second, sixth and eighth stories) and most pertinently, from *La Brache di San Griffone*, another of Giambattista Casti's *Novelle Galanti* – see above, stanza 62n: also below, 1440n.

202: The name "Antonina" occurs at Le Sage's *Gil Blas*, X 8.

141.

But Julia Mistress, and Antonia Maid,
 Appeared like two poor harmless women, who
 Of Goblins, but still more of men afraid,
 Had thought one man might be deterred by two,
 And therefore side by side were gently laid, 1125
 Until the hours of absence should run through,
 And truant husband should return, and say,
 “My dear, I was the first who came away.” –

142.

Now Julia found at length a voice, and cried,
 “In heaven’s name, Don Alfonso, what d’ye mean?” 1130
 “Has Madness seized you? would that I had died
 “Ere such a monster’s victim I had been!
 “What might this midnight violence betide,
 “A sudden fit of drunkenness or Spleen?
 “Dare you suspect me, whom the thought would kill? 1135
 “Search, then, the room!” – Alfonso said, “I will.” –

143.

He searched, they searched, and rummaged every where,
 Closet and clothes-press, Chest and window-seat,
 And found much linen, lace, and several pair²⁰³
 Of stockings, slippers, brushes, combs, complete, 1140
 With other articles of ladies fair,
 To keep them beautiful, or leave them neat;
 Arras they pricked and curtains with their swords,
 And wounded several shutters, and some boards.

144.

Under the bed they searched, and there they found – 1145
 No matter what, it was not that they sought;²⁰⁴
 They opened windows, gazing if the Ground
 Had signs or footmarks, but the earth said nought;²⁰⁵
 And then they stared each others’ faces round:
 ’Tis odd, not one of all these Seekers thought, 1150
 And seems to me almost a sort of blunder,
 Of looking *in* the bed as well as under. –

203: *They searched ... / Closet and clothes-press, chest and window-seat, / And found much linen ...* compare *The Merry Wives*, III iii, where Falstaff escapes in a basket of dirty washing.

204: *No matter what, it was not what they sought:* the second potty in the epic. See above, Canto I lines 191-2, and Hobhouse’s reaction.

205: *gazing if the Ground / Had signs or footmarks, but the earth said nought:* not a detail from *The Merry Wives*, but perhaps from *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Act II, where Cherubino jumps from the window: see the entrance of Antonio with the broken flower-pot. However, B. again reverses the detail.

145.

During this Inquisition Julia's tongue
 Was not asleep – “Yes, search and search”, she cried,
 “Insult on Insult heap, and wrong on wrong! 1155
 “It was for this that I became a bride!
 “For this in silence I have suffered long
 “A husband like Alfonso at my side;
 “But now I'll bear no more, nor here remain,
 “If there be law, or lawyers, in all Spain. 1160

146.²⁰⁶

“Yes, Don Alfonso! husband now no more,
 “If ever you indeed deserved the name,
 “Is't worthy of your years? – you have threescore,
 “Fifty, or Sixty – it is all the same –
 “Is't wise or fitting causeless to explore 1165
 “For facts against a virtuous woman's fame?
 “Ungrateful, perjured – barbarous Don Alfonso,
 “How dare you think your Lady would go on so?

147.

“Is it for this I have disdained to hold
 “The common privileges of my Sex? 1170
 “That I have chosen a Confessor so old
 “And deaf that any other it would vex –
 “And never once he has had cause to scold,
 “But found my very Innocence perplex
 “So much, he always doubted I was married? 1175
 “How sorry you will be when I've miscarried!

206: Sts.146-57: compare the words of Fielding's Molly Seagrim to Tom Jones, Book V Chapter 5: '*And this is your Love for me, to forsake me in this Manner, now you have ruined me? How often, when I have told you that all Men are false and Perjury alike, and grow tired of us all as soon as ever they have had their wicked Wills of us, how often have you sworn you would never foresake me? And can you be such a perjury Man after all? What signifies all the Riches in the World to me without you, now you have gained my Heart so you have --you have----? Why do you mention another Man to me? I can never love any other Man as long as I live. All other Men are nothing to me. If the greatest Squire in all the Country would come a suiting to me to-morrow, I would not give my Company to him. No, I shall always hate and despise the whole Sex for your Sake -*' whereupon the rug against the wall falls, revealing her new lover, Mr. Square, to have been present throughout.

148.

“Was it for this that no Cortejo e’er²⁰⁷
 “I yet have chosen from out the Youth of Seville –
 “Is it for this I scarce went any where,
 “Except to bullfights, mass, play, rout, and revel? 1180
 “Is it for this, whate’er my Suitors were,
 “I favoured none – nay, was almost uncivil?
 “Is it for this that General Count O’Reilly,
 “Who took Algiers, declares I used him vilely? – *

* Note: Donna Julia here made a mistake - Count O'Reilly did not take Algiers - but Algiers very nearly took him - he and his army & fleet retreated with great loss & not much credit before that city in the year 17 = = - &c. &c. -²⁰⁸

149.

“Did not the Italian Musico Cazzani²⁰⁹ 1185
 “Sing at my heart Six months at least in vain?
 “Did not his Countryman Count Corniani,²¹⁰
 “Call me the only virtuous wife in Spain?
 “Were there not also Russians, English, many?
 “The Count Strongstroganoff I put in pain,²¹¹ 1190
 “And Lord MountCoffeehouse, the Irish Peer,²¹²
 “Who killed himself for love (with wine) last year? –

150.

“Have I not had two Bishops at my feet?
 “The Duke of Ichar, and Don Fernan Nunez,²¹³
 “And is it thus a faithful wife you treat? 1195
 “I wonder in what quarter now the Moon is;²¹⁴
 “I praise your vast forbearance not to beat
 “Me also, since the time so opportune is!
 “Oh, Valiant man! with sword drawn and cocked trigger,
 “Now tell me, don’t you cut a pretty figure? – 1200

207: *Cortejo*: socially tolerated lover of a married woman. Compare *Cavaliere Servente*, the Italian phrase which for a time defined B.’s relationship with Teresa Guiccioli. See *Beppo*, St.40.

208: Byron’s note: *General Count O’Reilly, / Who took Algiers*: his failure occurred in 1775; he was the Hispanic-Irish governor of Madrid.

209: *Cazzani*: means roughly “silly little prick”.

210: *Corniani*: means roughly, “cuckold”.

211: *Strongstroganoff*: compare below, Canto VIII sts.15-17.

212: *Lord MountCoffeehouse, the Irish Peer*: Many new Irish peers were created in the 1801 Act of Union, and were regarded distastefully both by conservative Englishmen and patriotic Irishmen. Castlereagh was one such. Mount Coffee House was in Mount Street, London, run by Shelley’s first father-in-law.

213: The name “Nunez” occurs at Le Sage’s *Gil Blas*, II 4 and XI 14.

214: *I wonder in what quarter now the Moon is*: she implies Alfonso’s lunacy. The phases of the moon were, and are still, said to affect the stability of minds prone to instability.

151.

“Was it for this you took your sudden Journey
 “Under pretence of business indispensable,
 “With that Sublime of rascals your Attorney?²¹⁵
 “Whom I see standing there and looking sensible
 “Of having played the fool? Though both I spurn, he 1205
 “Deserves the worst – his conduct’s less defensible,
 “Because, no doubt ’twas for his dirty fee
 “And not from any love to you nor me. – – – –

152.

“If he comes here to take a deposition,
 “By all means let the Gentleman proceed; 1210
 “You’ve made the apartment in a fit condition;
 “There’s pen and ink for you, Sir, when you need –²¹⁶
 “Let every thing be noted with precision!
 “I would not you for nothing should be fee’d,
 “But, as my Maid’s undrest – pray turn your Spies out!” 1215
 “Oh!” sobbed Antonia, “I could tear their eyes out.”

153.

“There is the closet, there the toilet, there
 “The Antichamber – search them under, over;
 “There is the Sopha, there the great Arm–chair,
 “The Chimney – which would really hold a lover; 1220
 “I wish to sleep, and beg you will take care
 “And make no further noise, till you discover
 “The secret cavern of this lurking treasure –
 “And when ’tis found, let me, too, have that pleasure.

154.

“And now, Hidalgo! now that you have thrown²¹⁷ 1225
 “Doubt upon me, confusion over all,
 “Pray have the courtesy to make it known
 “*Who* is the man you search for? how d’ye call
 “Him? what’s his lineage? let him but be shown!
 “I hope he’s young and handsome – is he tall? 1230
 “Tell me and be assured, that since you stain
 “My honour thus – it shall not be in vain.

155.

“At least – perhaps, he has not Sixty years,
 “At that age he would be too old for slaughter,
 “Or for so young a husband’s jealous fears 1235
 “(Antonia! let me have a glass of water)
 “I am ashamed of having shed these tears,
 “They are unworthy of my father’s daughter;
 “My Mother dreamed not in my natal hour

215: *Attorney:* solicitor. B. disliked lawyers in the vicinity of marital discord.

216: “*There’s pen and ink for you, Sir, when you need ...*”: this and the next two lines, at least, are addressed to the Attorney.

217: *Hidalgo:* pure-bred Spaniard. See above, 66 and n. Julia here speaks ironically.

“That I should fall into a Monster’s power. – 1240

156.

“Perhaps ’tis of Antonia you are jealous,
 “You saw that She was sleeping by my Side,
 “When you broke in upon us with your fellows;²¹⁸
 “Look where you please – we’ve nothing, Sir, to hide;
 “Only another time, I trust, you’ll tell us, 1245
 “Or for the sake of decency abide
 “A moment at the door, that we may be
 “Drest to receive so much good company.

157.

“And now, Sir, I have done, and say no more,
 “The little I have said may serve to show 1250
 “The guileless heart in silence may grieve o’er
 “The wrongs to whose exposure it is slow:
 “I leave you to your Conscience as before,
 “’Twill one day ask you *why* you used me so?
 “God grant you may not feel the bitterest grief! – 1255
 “Antonia! where’s my pocket Handkerchief?” –

158.

She ceased, and turned upon her pillow; pale
 She lay, her dark eyes flashing through their tears,
 Like Skies that rain and lighten; as a Veil,
 Waved and o’ershading her wan cheek, appears 1260
 Her streaming hair; the black Curls strive, but fail,
 To hide the glossy Shoulder, which uprears
 Its snow through all; her soft lips lie apart,
 And louder than her breathing beats her heart.

159.

The Señor Don Alfonso stood confused; 1265
 Antonia bustled round the ransacked room,
 And, turning up her Nose, with looks abused
 Her master, and his Myrmidons, of whom²¹⁹
 Not One, save the Attorney, was amused;
 He, like Achates, faithful to the tomb,²²⁰ 1270
 So there were quarrels, cared not for the cause,
 Knowing they must be settled by the Laws. – – –

160.

With prying Snub-nose and small eyes, he stood,
 Following Antonia’s motions here and there,
 With much suspicion in his attitude; 1275
 For reputations he had little care;

218: *jealous / fellows* duplicates rhymes at *Beppo* sts.18 and 55.

219: *Myrmidons*: in Homer’s *Iliad*, the personal bodyguard of the hero Achilles; thus, any group of subordinates.

220: *Achates*: companion of Aeneas in Virgil’s *Aeneid*; a byword for fidelity. Both jokes lightly stress the difference between B.’s epic and its predecessors.

So that a Suit or Action were made good,
Small pity had he for the young and fair,
And ne'er believed in Negatives, till these
Were proved by competent false witnesses.

1280

161.

But Don Alfonso stood with downcast looks,
 And, truth to say, he made a foolish figure;
 When, after searching in five hundred nooks,
 And treating a young wife with so much rigour,
 He gained no point, except some self-rebukes, 1285
 Added to those his lady with such vigour
 Had poured upon him for the last half-hour,
 Quick, thick, and heavy – as a thunder-Shower. –

162.

At first he tried to hammer an excuse,
 To which the sole reply were tears, and sobs, 1290
 And Indications of Hysterics, whose
 Prologue is always certain throes, and throbs,
 Gasps, and whatever else the Owners choose:
 Alfonso saw his wife, and thought of Job's;²²¹
 He saw, too, in perspective, her Relations, 1295
 And then he tried to muster all his patience. –

163.

He stood in act to speak, or rather stammer,²²²
 But sage Antonia cut him short before
 The Anvil of his Speech received the hammer,
 With "Pray Sir, leave the room, and say no more, 1300
 "Or Madam dies." – Alfonso muttered "d—n her",
 But nothing else, the time of words was o'er;
 He cast a rueful look or two, and did,
 He knew not wherefore, that which he was bid. –

PROOF: At 1301, Hobhouse underlines **D—n her**, and writes, **cant be read aloud[.]** Byron erases this with five strokes.

221: Alfonso saw his wife, and thought of Job's: see Job 2, 6-10: *So went Satan forth from the presence of the Lord, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown. And he took him a potsherd to scrape himself withal; and he sat down among the ashes. Then said his wife to him, "Dost thou still retain thine integrity? Curse God, and die." But he said unto her, "Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we not receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?" In all this did not Job sin with his lips.* Presumably Alfonso is not only groaning under his wife's tirade, but also measuring his own emotion-prone state by Job's standards of stoic patience (1296).

222: *He stood in act:* this odd phrase also occurs at TVOJ, lines 290-1: ... *he stood / In act to assert his right or wrong ...*

164.

With him retired his "*Posse Comitatus*,"²²³ 1305
 The Attorney last, who lingered near the door,
 Reluctantly, still tarrying there as late as
 Antonia let him – not a little sore
 At this most strange and unexplained "hiatus",
 In Don Alfonso's facts, which just now wore 1310
 An awkward look; as he revolved the case
 The Door was fastened in his legal face. –

165.

No sooner was it bolted, than – Oh Shame!
 Oh Sin! Oh Sorrow! and Oh Womankind!
 How can you do such things and keep your fame? 1315
 Unless this World, and t'other too, be blind?
 Nothing so dear as an unfilched good Name!²²⁴
 But to proceed – for there is more behind;
 With much heart-felt reluctance be it said,
 Young Juan slipped, half-smothered, from the bed.²²⁵ 1320

166.

He had been hid – I don't pretend to say
 How, nor can I indeed describe the where –
 Young, slender, and packed easily, he lay,
 No doubt in little compass, round or Square,²²⁶
 But pity him I neither must nor may 1325
 His suffocation by that pretty pair;
 'Twere better, sure, to die so, than be shut²²⁷
 With maudlin Clarence in his Malmsey Butt. –²²⁸

223: "*Posse Comitatus*": "the power of the county"; a body of men raised by the sheriff to enforce the law.

224: Nothing so dear as an unfilched good Name: echoes Iago at *Othello*, III iii 155: ... *He that filches from me my good name / Robs me of that which not enriches him / And makes me poor indeed.*

225: *Juan ... half-smothered ... young, slender, and packed easily*: like Falstaff in III iii of *The Merry Wives* (see above, st.136n) Juan is smothered in linen; although otherwise their sizes and achievements differ, the physically gross and erotically unsatisfied Falstaff being hidden with difficulty in a basket of dirty washing and dunked in the Thames. (Another character in *The Merry Wives* is called Master Slender.)

226: *Square*: see note on *Tom Jones*, above, stanza 146n.

227: ... *to die so* ...: has sexual connotation.

228: *With maudlin Clarence in his Malmsey Butt*: see *Richard III*, I iv, where George, Duke of Clarence, is drowned in a butt of wine after having been stabbed. *Maudlin* refers to the self-dramatising account of his dream earlier in the scene.

167.

And secondly, I pity not, because,
 He had no business to commit a Sin, 1330
 Forbid by Heavenly, fined by human laws,²²⁹
 At least 'twas rather early to begin;
 But at Sixteen the Conscience rarely gnaws
 So much as when we call our old debts in
 At sixty years, and draw the accompts of Evil, 1335
 And find a deuced balance with the Devil. –

168.

Of his position I can give no Notion:²³⁰
 'Tis written in the Hebrew Chronicle,²³¹
 How the Physicians, leaving pill and potion,
 Prescribed, by way of Blister, a young Belle, 1340
 When old King David's blood grew dull in motion,
 And that the Medicine answered very well;
 Perhaps 'twas in a different way applied,
 For David lived, but Juan nearly died. –

169.

What's to be done? Alfonso will come back 1345
 The moment he has sent his fools away;
 Antonia's Skill was put upon the rack,
 But no device could be brought into play –
 And how to parry the renewed attack?
 Besides, it wanted but few hours of day; 1350
 Antonia puzzled; Julia did not speak,
 But pressed her bloodless lip to Juan's cheek.

170.

He turned his lip to hers, and with his hand
 Called back the tangles of her wandering hair;
 Even then their love they could not all command, 1355
 And half forgot their danger and despair;
 Antonia's patience now was at a stand –
 "Come, Come, 'tis no time now for fooling there",
 She whispered, in great wrath – "I must deposit
 "This pretty gentleman within the Closet. – 1360

229: ... *fined by human laws*: the contrast is between the righteous laws of God and the mercenary laws of man. Compare above, 512n.

230: ... *his position*: ambiguously, either that of the Devil on reckoning-up the accompt of sin (previous line) or that of Juan in the bed, which amounts metaphorically to the same thing.

231: *'Tis written in the Hebrew Chronicle*: the *Medicine* (1342) did not actually answer at all. See I Kings i: *Now King David was old and stricken in years; and they covered him with clothes, but he gat no heat. Wherefore his servants said unto him, Let there be sought for my lord the king a young virgin; and let her stand before the king, and cherish him, and let her lie in thy bosom, that my lord the king may get heat. So they sought for a fair damsel throughout all the coasts of Israel, and found Abishag a Shunammite, and brought her to the king. And the damsel was very fair, and cherished the king, and ministered to him: but the King knew her not.*

171.

“Pray, keep your Nonsense for some luckier Night –
 “Who can have put my Master in this mood?
 “What will become on’t? – I’m in such a fright,
 “The Devil’s in the Urchin, and no Good –²³²
 “Is this a time for giggling? this a plight?²³³ 1365
 “Why, don’t you know that it may end in blood?
 “You’ll lose your life, and I shall lose my place,
 “My Mistress all, for that half-Girlish face.²³⁴

172.

“Had it but been for a stout Cavalier
 “Of twenty five or thirty (Come, make haste) 1370
 “But for a Child, what piece of work is here!
 “I really, Madam, wonder at your taste
 “(Come, Sir, get in) my Master must be near!
 “There, for the present, at the least he’s fast,
 “And, if we can but till the morning keep 1375
 “Our Counsel (Juan – Mind, you must not sleep).”

232: *The Devil’s in the Urchin*: compare above, I 196.

233: *a plight*: refers to engagements. Juan and Julia are behaving as though they are Gertrude and Henry in Pennsylvania (see above, st.88 and n).

234: *that half-Girlish face*: the concealment of Juan in the closet, and the references to his androgyny, again recall Act II of Mozart’s *Le Nozze di Figaro*, in which the page Cherubino (a youth, but sung by a woman) is hidden in the cupboard of the Countess’s dressing-room by the maid Susanna. Cherubino is often spoken of as an adolescent version of Don Giovanni.

173.

Now, Don Alfonso entering, but alone,
 Closed the oration of the trusty Maid;
 She loitered, and he told her to be gone,
 An order somewhat sullenly obeyed; 1380
 However, present remedy was none,
 And no great Good seemed answered if she staid;
 Regarding both with slow and sidelong view,
 She snuffed the candle, curtsied, and withdrew.

PROOF: The following dialogue occurs curved in the margins around received Stanzas 172 and 173. Hobhouse: **carissimo! do review this whole scene & think what you would say of it, if written by another.** – Byron: **I would say read “the *Miracle*” in *Hobhouse’s* poems, and “*January and May*” and “*Paulo Purgante*” and “*Hans Carvel*” and “*the Bath Guide*” and “*Joconde*” if *these are laughable* it is the *Serious – Little’s* poems and *Lalla Rookh* that affect *seriously*. now *Lust* is a *serious* passion and cannot be excited by the *ludicrous*.**

/
 / $\mu\pi$ /²³⁵
 /

174.

Alfonso paused a minute – then begun 1385
 Some strange excuses for his late proceeding;
 He would not justify what he had done,
 To say the best, it was extreme ill-breeding;
 But there were ample reasons for it, none
 Of which he specified in this his pleading; 1390
 His Speech was a fine Sample, on the whole,
 Of Rhet’ric, which the learn’d call “*Rigmarole*.”

235: PROOF ALTERCATION: B. refers to works much ruder than *Don Juan*. They are by Hobhouse himself (*The Miracle*, his version of Boccaccio, Day Three Story One, from *Imitations and Translations*, 1809: the one concerning the “dumb man” in the nunnery) by Chaucer (*January and May* is Pope’s version of Chaucer’s *The Merchant’s Tale*) by Matthew Prior (*Paolo* [sic] *Purgante* and *Hans Carvel* – and by Christopher Anstey – his verse-novel of 1766 *The New Bath Guide* (see below, notes 5 and 7 to B.’s own note on Campbell at the end of Canto V). “*Joconde*” is a version by La Fontaine of Ariosto’s tale of Jocondo, Astolfo and Fiammetta in *Orlando Furioso* Canto XXVIII (La Fontaine, *Contes et Nouvelles* 1664, I i: *Joconde, ou L’Infidélité des femmes*). *Little* is Thomas Moore: for him, and for his *Lalla Rookh*, see above, 828-32. For more thoughts about the supposed pornography of *Don Juan*, to add to B.’s riposte in proof to Hobhouse, see this extract from a letter to Murray, written on Christmas Day 1822: “**D[on] Juan will be known by and by for what it is intended a satire on abuses of the present states of Society – and not an eulogy of vice; – it may be now and then voluptuous – I can’t help that – Ariosto is worse – Smollett (see Lord Stratwell in vol 2nd. of R[oderick] R[andom]) ten times worse – and Fielding no better. – – No Girl will ever be seduced by reading D[on] J[uan] – no – no – she will go to Little’s poems – & Rousseau’s Romans – for that – or even to the immaculate De Stael – – they will encourage her – and not the Don – who laughs at that – and – and – most other things. – But never mind – ‘Ca ira!’” (BLJ X 68). On the grounds of his Boccaccio version alone, Hobhouse’s double standards condemn themselves, although he had rapidly become ashamed of the rude poem, *which the Devil the father of all damnation must have prompted me to insert* (*Byron’s Bulldog* ed. Graham, p.58).**

175.

Julia said nought; though all the while there rose
 A ready answer, which at once enables
 A Matron, who her husband's foible knows, 1395
 By a few timely words to turn the tables,
 Which if it does not silence still must pose,
 Even if it should comprize a pack of fables;
 'Tis to retort with firmness, and when he
 Suspects with *One*, do you reproach with *three*. 1400

176.

Julia, in fact, had tolerable grounds,
 Alfonso's loves with Inez were well known;²³⁶
 But whether 'twas that One's own Guilt confounds,
 But that can't be, as has been often shown,
 A Lady with apologies abounds; 1405
 It might be that her Silence sprang alone
 From delicacy to Don Juan's ear,
 To whom She knew his Mother's fame was dear.²³⁷

177.

There might be one more motive, which makes two;
 Alfonso ne'er to Juan had alluded, 1410
 Mentioned his jealousy, but never who
 Had been the happy lover he concluded
 Concealed amongst his premises; 'tis true,
 His Mind the more o'er this its mystery brooded;
 To speak of Inez now were, one may say, 1415
 Like throwing Juan in Don Alfonso's way. –

178.

A hint in tender cases is enough;
 Silence is best, besides there is a *Tact*
 (That modern phrase appears to me sad stuff,²³⁸
 But it will serve to keep my verse compact) 1420
 Which keeps, when pushed by questions rather rough,
 A Lady always distant from the fact –
 The charming Creatures lie with such a Grace,
 There's nothing so becoming to the face.

236: *Alfonso's loves with Inez were well known:* see above, 525-8, where they are only whispered.

237: *his Mother's fame was dear:* see above, analysis of sts.110-11.

238: *tact / (That modern phrase appears to me sad stuff:* the *Oxford English Dictionary* gives 1804 as the first use of *tact* to mean, roughly, a sense of what is fitting and polite. See also below, XII, 66, 8 and n; and XIV, 41, 6.

182.

He left the room for his relinquished Sword,
 And Julia instant to the Closet flew, 1450
 “Fly – Juan – Fly! for heaven’s sake – not a word –
 “The door is open – you may yet slip through
 “The passage you so often have explored –²⁴³
 “Here is the Garden key – fly – fly – Adieu!
 “Haste! – haste! – I hear Alfonso’s hurrying feet – 1455
 “Day has not broke – there’s No One in the Street.” –

183.

None can say that this was not good Advice,
 The only Mischief was, it came too late;
 Of all experience ’tis the usual price,
 A Sort of Income–tax laid on by Fate;²⁴⁴ 1460
 Juan had reached the room-door in a trice,
 And might have done so by the Garden-Gate,
 But met Alfonso in his dressing-gown,
 Who threatened Death – so Juan knocked him down.

184.

Dire was the Scuffle, and out went the Light, 1465
 Antonia cried out “Rape!” and Julia “Fire!”
 But not a Servant stirred to aid the fight;
 Alfonso, pommelled to his heart’s desire,²⁴⁵
 Swore lustily he’d be revenged this night;
 And Juan, too, blasphemed an Octave higher;²⁴⁶ 1470
 His blood was up; though young, he was a Tartar,
 And not at all disposed to prove a Martyr. –

185.

Alfonso’s sword had dropped ere he could draw it,
 And they continued battling hand to hand,
 For Juan very luckily ne’er saw it; 1475
 His temper not being under great command,
 If at that moment he had chanced to claw it,
 Alfonso’s days had not been in the land²⁴⁷
 Much longer: think of husbands’, Lovers’ lives!
 And how Ye may be doubly Widows – Wives! 1480

186.

243: “... you may yet slip through / The passage you so often have explored”: double-entendre.

244: *Income-tax*: this was first introduced as a war measure in 1799; B. uses a modern joke by way of reference to Nemesis, *The doom which oft avenges* (see below, III 637).

245: *Alfonso, pommelled to his heart’s desire*: implies the cuckold’s masochistic desire for punishment. See note on Alfonso’s Shakespearean precedents, above, 1112n.

246: *And Juan, too, blasphemed an Octave higher*: the phrase is from *Vathek* (p.28 in the Lonsdale edition): ... *the mothers repeated their exclamations an octave higher* at the disappearance of the fifty children sacrificed by the protagonist.

247: *Alfonso’s days had not been in the land / Much longer*: B. is perhaps thinking of the very different Don Giovanni of Mozart, who kills the father of his intended sexual victim. But the character in question returns from the dead for his revenge, and B. seems now to be writing a different *Don Juan*: certainly one without supernatural machinery.

Alfonso grappled to detain the foe,
 And Juan throttled him to get away,
 And blood ('twas from the Nose) began to flow;
 At last, as they more faintly wrestling lay,
 Juan contrived to give an awkward blow, 1485
 And then his only Garment quite gave way;
 He fled, like Joseph, leaving it; but there,²⁴⁸
 I doubt, all Likeness ends between the pair. –

187.

Lights came at length, and Men, and Maids, who found
 An awkward Spectacle their eyes before; 1490
 Antonia in hysterics, Julia swooned,
 Alfonso leaning, breathless, by the door;
 Some half-torn drapery scattered on the Ground,
 Some blood, and several footsteps, but no more;
 Juan the gate gained, turned the key about, 1495
 And liking not the inside, locked the Out. –

188.

Here ends this Canto: – Need I Sing, or Say?
 How Juan, naked, favoured by the Night,
 Who favours what She should not, found his way,
 And reached his home in an unseemly plight? 1500
 The pleasant Scandal which arose next day,
 The Nine days' wonder which was brought to light,
 And how Alfonso sued for a divorce,
 Were in the English Newspapers, of course.²⁴⁹

248: *like Joseph:* at Genesis 39 11-19, Joseph flies from Potiphar's wife, who is trying unsuccessfully to seduce him: *And it came to pass about this time, that Joseph went into the house to do his business; and there was none of the men of the house there within. And she [Potiphar's wife] caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out. And it came to pass, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand, and was fled forth, that she called unto the men of her house, and spake unto them, saying, See, he hath brought an Hebrew in unto us to mock us; he came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice: and it came to pass, when he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled, and got him out.* B. as usual plays games with his original. See above, notes to sts.136-87, and ll.1294 and 1338.

249: *... the English Newspapers:* the story is unlikely to have been told there. B.'s satire is often directed against the press, only partly because of the unfair and inaccurate way in which they treated him during the separation. He uses them as emblems of the age's inadequate self-image. See jokes above, ll.3-4, and 16, and below, VII 248, 272, 636, VIII sts.18-19, or 993-4. He intends his poem to be a finer record than they.

189.

If you would like to see the whole proceedings, 1505
 The depositions, and the Cause at full,
 The names of all the Witnesses, the pleadings
 Of Counsel to Nonsuit, or to Annull,²⁵⁰
 There's more than one Edition, and the readings
 Are various, but they none of them are dull; 1510
 The Best is that in Shorthand made by Gurney,²⁵¹
 Who to Madrid on purpose made a Journey.

190.

But Donna Inez, to divert the train
 Of one of the most circulating Scandals
 That had for Centuries been known in Spain, 1515
 Since Roderic's Goths, or older Genseric's Vandals,²⁵²
 First vowed (and never yet she vowed in vain)
 To Virgin Mary several pounds of Candles;
 And then, by the advice of some old ladies,
 She sent her Son to be embarked at Cadiz.²⁵³ 1520

191.

She had resolved that he should travel through
 All European Climes, by land or Sea,
 To mend his former morals, or get new,
 Especially in France and Italy
 (At least this is the thing most people do) 1525
 Julia was sent into a Nunnery,²⁵⁴
 And there, perhaps, her feelings may be better
 Shown in the following Copy of her letter: –

250: ... *Nonsuit, or to Annull*: two ways of ending the case (in English law). The first occurs either when the plaintiff withdraws, or when the judge orders him to withdraw because of the inadequacy of his evidence: the second when the judge for any reason declares the case void and the trial cancelled.

251: *Gurney*: William Gurney was shorthand writer to the Houses of Parliament: he never went to Spain. Compare W.S.Rose's *Court and Parliament of Beasts*, V, I, 4: *There's no short hand, for travel, writ by Gurney.*

252: *Roderic's Goths ... Genseric's Vandals*: Roderick was the last Gothic King of Spain; Southey had written an epic about him – *Roderick, Last of the Goths* (1814). Genseric, King of the Vandals, sacked Rome in 455. For Roderick and the Goths, see above, 443n, 828-9n. B. habitually scorned Southey's epics (see *EBSR* 127, 142 and 189-239 and 915-16; *Hints from Horace* 195-6 and 611-22; plus numerous notes). But in correspondence with his future wife (BLJ IV 235) he offered a partial retraction in the case of *Roderick*. Then, within three weeks of the wedding, he criticised the poem in a letter to Moore (BLJ IV 256 – quoted below, III 184n). It is intriguing to think that the disillusion with *Roderick* – a tale of carnal transgression atoned for – with Southey, with Annabella (see above, I 66n, and B.'s own comments on I 210 and 218) and with marriage, may all have occurred simultaneously. Part of his motive for writing *Don Juan*, of which the first two words are *Bob Southey!*, which features a portrait of Annabella as the hero's misguided mother, and which constitutes a criticism of epics in general, is clearly reaction to all these experiences.

253: *ladies / Cadiz*: a favourite rhyme with B.. See below, II 33-7, and 647-8 and n, for subsequent games, reflecting this usage. See also *Song: The Girl of Cadiz* (1809).

254: *Julia was sent into a Nunnery*: adulteresses were not normally received into Spanish convents. B. plays with our cliché view of Catholic attitudes to sexual transgression.

192.²⁵⁵

“They tell me ’tis decided; You depart;
 “’Tis wise – ’tis well, but not the less a pain; 1530
 “I have no further claim on your young heart,
 “Mine was the victim, and would be again;
 “To love too much has been the only Art
 “I used; I write in haste, and if a Stain
 “Be on this Sheet, ’tis not what it appears, 1535
 “My Eyeballs burn and throb, but have no tears. –

193.

“I loved, I love you, for that love have lost
 “State, Station, Heaven, Mankind’s, my own Esteem,
 “And yet can not regret what it hath cost,
 “So dear is still the Memory of that dream; 1540
 “Yet, if I name my Guilt, ’tis not to boast,
 “None can deem harshlier of me than I deem:
 “I trace this scrawl because I cannot rest –
 “I’ve nothing to reproach, nor to request.

194.

“Man’s love is of his life a thing apart, 1545
 “’Tis Woman’s whole Existence; Man may range *
 “The Court, Camp, Church, the Vessel, and the Mart,
 “Sword, Gown, Gain, Glory, offer in exchange
 “Pride, Fame, Ambition, to fill up his heart,
 “And few there are whom these can not estrange; 1550
 Man has all these resources, we but one,
 To love again, and be again undone.

PROOF: Against 1545 - 1546, Hobhouse writes, in the left margin: **Coppet to wit** – Byron erases the comment with four verticals.

195.

“My Breast has been all weakness, is so yet,
 “I struggle, but cannot collect my Mind;
 “My blood still rushes where my Spirit’s set, 1555
 “As roll the waves before the settled Wind;
 “My brain is feminine, nor can forget –
 “To all, except your Image, madly blind;
 “As turns the Needle trembling to the Pole
 “It ne’er can reach, so turns to you my Soul. 1560

255: *her letter:* there may be here much of B.’s feelings about his half-sister Augusta. See below, Appendix 1.

196.

“You will proceed in beauty, and in pride,
 “Beloved and loving many; all is o’er
 “For me on Earth, except some years to hide
 “My Shame and Sorrow deep in my heart’s Core;
 “These I could bear, but cannot cast aside 1565
 “The Passion which still rends it as before,
 “And so farewell – forgive me, love me – No,
 “The word is idle now, – but let it go.

197.

“I have no more to say, but linger still,
 “And dare not set my Seal upon this Sheet, 1570
 “And yet I may as well the task fulfil,
 “My Misery can scarce be more complete;
 “I had not lived till now, could Sorrow kill;
 “Death flies the wretch who fain the blow would meet,
 “And I must even survive this last Adieu, 1575
 “And bear with Life, to love and pray for You.”

198.

This note was written upon Gilt-edged paper,²⁵⁶
 With a neat Crow-quill, rather hard, but new;
 Her small white fingers scarce could reach the taper,
 But trembled as Magnetic Needles do,²⁵⁷ 1580
 And yet She did not let one tear escape her;
 The Seal a Sunflower; “*Elle vous suit partout*”,
 The motto; cut upon a white Cornelian,²⁵⁸
 The Wax was superfine, its hue Vermilion. –

199.

This was Don Juan’s earliest Scrape; but whether 1585
 I shall proceed with his adventures is
 Dependent on the Public altogether;
 We’ll see, however, what they say to this;
 Their favour in an author’s cap’s a feather,
 And no great Mischief’s done by their Caprice; 1590
 And if their approbation we experience,
 Perhaps they’ll have some more about a year hence.

256: ... *this note*: the note’s fate is extremely sick. ... *Gilt-edged paper*: in *Confessions* Book IX, Rousseau describes writing the first two parts of *Julie ou La Nouvelle Héloïse* on gilt-edged paper.

257: ... *as Magnetic Needles*: echoes 1559 above.

258: *The Seal ... Cornelian*: B. had such a seal, given him by John Edleston, the Trinity College chorister with whom he was in love. The French motto means “She follows you everywhere”. See B.’s 1806 poem, *The Cornelian*, the poem *As by the fix’d decrees of Heaven* (1807) and verse seven of *The Adieu* (1807).

200.

My Poem's Epic, and is meant to be
 Divided in twelve books; each book containing,
 With Love, and War, a heavy Gale at Sea, 1595
 A list of Ships, and Captains, and Kings reigning,²⁵⁹
 New Characters; the Episodes are three;
 A Panorama View of Hell's in training,²⁶⁰
 After the Style of Virgil and of Homer,
 So that my Name of Epic's no Misnomer. – – – 1600

201.

All these things will be specified in time,
 With strict regard to Aristotle's rules,
 The "Vade Mecum" of the true Sublime,²⁶¹
 Which makes so many poets, and some fools;
 Prose poets like blank-verse, I'm fond of rhyme,²⁶² 1605
 Good workmen never quarrel with their tools;
 I've got new Mythological machinery,
 And very handsome Supernatural Scenery.

202.

There's only one slight difference between
 Me and my Epic brethren gone before,²⁶³ 1610
 And here the advantage is my own, I ween
 (Not that I have several merits more,
 But this will more peculiarly be seen)
 They so embellish, that 'tis quite a bore
 Their labyrinth of fables to thread through,²⁶⁴ 1615
 Whereas this Story's actually true.

259: *A list of Ships, and Captains, and Kings reigning:* for a list of Captains and Kings, see, for instance, *Aeneid* VII, 647-817; for one of Ships, Kings and Captains, see for instance *Iliad* II 484-759. For one of B.'s equivalents, see below, VII sts.15-18.

260: *A Panorama View of Hell's in training:* descents into the underworld occur at *Odyssey*, Book XI and *Aeneid*, Book VI. But several episodes of *Don Juan* – the shipwreck in Canto II or the battle in Canto VIII – describe hellish scenes on earth. *Panorama* was changed to *panoramic* by John Wright for Murray's 1832 edition. The former word dates from 1796; the latter from 1813. Perhaps in twenty years the differentiation between the adjective and the noun had become more common. Compare B.'s use of *kaleidoscope* (below, II, 744) or *phantasmagoria* (*TVOJ*, 615).

261: *Aristotle's rules / The Vade Mecum of the true sublime:* a vade mecum ("Go with me" – Latin) was a pocket book of useful information. Aristotle's *Poetics* (see above, 959 and below, III 984) was one such classical "instruction manual" for poets; yet see above, I 333-4, where Longinus is the arbiter of the true sublime.

262: *Prose poets like blank-verse:* Wordsworth's *The Excursion* is in blank verse, as is Southey's *Roderick*.

263: *Me and my Epic brethren gone before:* B. may have Southey in mind here rather than Homer or Virgil. See the phrase *the other epic bard* in the rough draft.

264: *Their labyrinth of fables:* Southey's oriental epics *Thalaba the Destroyer* and *The Curse of Kehama* have notably tortuous plots.

203.

If any person doubt it, I appeal
 To history, tradition, and to facts,
 To Newspapers, whose truth all know and feel,
 To plays in five, and Operas in three acts; 1620
 All these confirm my statement a good deal,
 But that which more completely faith exacts
 Is, that Myself, and several now in Seville,
Saw Juan's last Elopement with the Devil. –²⁶⁵

204.

If ever I should condescend to prose, 1625
 I'll write poetical commandments,²⁶⁶ which
 Shall supersede beyond all doubt all those
 That went before; in these I shall enrich
 My text with many things that No one knows,
 And carry precept to the highest pitch – 1630
 I'll call the work "Longinus o'er a Bottle,
 Or, Every Poet his *own* Aristotle." –²⁶⁷

265: *Saw Juan ... Devil:* when B. was in Seville in 1809 – his only visit – the theatres were closed: he is here slipping back momentarily into his narrative role as a Spanish bachelor (see above, 182 and n).

266: *commandments:* the blasphemy here raised a storm of protest – see BLJ VII 196, where B. expresses worry that its publication under his name may damage his right to guardianship over Ada: “... **such are the perils of a foolish jest; – I was not aware of this at the time ... now I should prefer my child to a poem any time ...**”

267: “*Longinus ... Aristotle*”: parody of a D.I.Y. book-title. Longinus was a late Greek critic who wrote a treatise *On the Sublime* – see above, 333.

205.

Thou shalt believe in Milton, Dryden, Pope,²⁶⁸
 Thou shalt not set up Wordsworth, Coleridge, Southey;²⁶⁹
 Because the first is crazed beyond all hope, 1635
 The second drunk, the third so quaint and mouthy;
 With Crabbe it may be difficult to cope,²⁷⁰
 And Campbell's Hippocrene is somewhat drouthy;²⁷¹
 Thou shalt not steal from Samuel Rogers, nor²⁷²
 Commit – flirtation with the muse of Moore.²⁷³ 1640

268: *Thou shalt believe in Milton:* continues with ideas from the Dedication (see ll.55-6). B. considered that the great tradition of English verse-writing had been corrupted by writers of his own day, not least by himself. The Dedication being unpublished, B. returns to the attack below, Canto III sts.93-100. B. may have been inspired, in writing these “poetical commandments”, by the example of William Hone, who had, in his *Reformist's Register* for early 1817, published a series of parodies on the Creed, attacking government placemen. In a famous trial, Hone had been charged with blasphemous libel, defended himself, and been acquitted. On October 8th 1820, B. wrote to Murray, **Recollect that if you put my name to [“Don] Juan” in these canting days – – – any lawyer might oppose my Guardian right of my daughter in Chancery – on the plea of it's containing the parody – such are the perils of a foolish jest; – I was not aware of this at the time – but you will find it correct I believe – & you may be sure that the Noels would not let it slip – Now I prefer my child to a poem at any time – and so should you as having half a dozen. – – Let me know your notions** (BLJ VII 196).

269: *Coleridge:* only included upon revision, Coleridge was the only one of B.'s subjects who felt it appropriate to answer the poem, and he did so with suitable irony on September 4, 1819: *My Lord,/ That I should be selected by you to share such immortality as Time may confer upon your Don Juan demands my acknowledgement, the quality of which is enlarged by the charge of inebriety that you prefer against me. Had you adorned me with indolence and irresolution the commendation had been just, but the more elegant acquirement of intemperance it were flattery to attribute to me. This example of your Lordship's taste and knowledge would embolden me to esteem you as among the first of our great writers if you would condescend first to avoid a too servile flattery of your contemporaries, and next to obtain correct information on the habits of those you celebrate. The sobriety of this letter is the unhappy proof of the extravagance of your praise. I am / your Lordship's obedient sober servant, / S.T.Coleridge. (Letters ed. Griggs, IV 948).* It is hard to imagine Wordsworth answering. Southey's reaction to the jokes was very different from that of Coleridge. On July 20 1819 he wrote to his friend C.H.Townsend: ... *I have not seen more of Don Juan than some extracts in a country paper, wherein my own name is coupled with a rhyme which I thought would never be used by any person but myself when kissing one of my own children in infancy, and talking nonsense to it, which, whatever you may think of it at present as an exercise for the intellect, I hope you will have one day occasion to practise, and you will then find out its many and various excellencies. I do not yet know whether the printed poem is introduced by a dedication to me, in a most hostile strain, which came over with it, or whether the person who has done Lord Byron the irreparable injury of sending into the world what his own publisher and his friends endeavoured, for his sake, to keep out of it, has suppressed it. This is to me a matter of perfect unconcern. Lord Byron attacked me when he ran amuck as a satirist; he found it convenient to express himself sorry for that satire, and to have such of the persons told so whom he had assailed in it as he was likely to fall in with in society; myself among the number. I met him three times or four times on courteous terms, and saw enough of him to feel that he was rather to be shunned than sought. Attack me as he will, I shall not go out of my course to break a spear with him; but if it comes in my way to give him a passing touch, it will be one that will leave a scar* (*Life and Letters*, ed. Cuthbert Southey, V p. 353).

270: *Crabbe:* for B. on Crabbe, see *EBSR*, 858: *Though Nature's sternest Painter, yet the best.*

271: *Campbell's Hippocrene:* at *EBSR* 800-1, Campbell is a *Neglected Genius*; but see above, 697-700. Hippocrene was the poetic stream on Mount Helicon.

272: *Rogers:* see Dedication, l.55: it is not clear whether it is bad to steal from Rogers because theft is bad, or because of the poor quality of the property.

273: *the muse of Moore:* Thomas Moore (see Dedication 55 and above, 829) wrote mildly erotic poetry.

206.

Thou shalt not covet M^r. Sotheby's Muse,²⁷⁴
 His Pegasus, nor any thing that's his;
 Thou shalt not bear false witness like "the Blues,"²⁷⁵
 (There's One, at least, is very fond of this)
 Thou shalt not write, in short, but what I choose; 1645
 This is true Criticism, and you may kiss,
 Exactly as you please, or not, the Rod,
 But if you don't, I'll lay it on, by G—d! —

207.

If any person should presume to assert
 This story is not moral, first, I pray, 1650
 That they will not cry out before they're hurt,
 Then that they'll read it o'er again, and say
 (But, doubtless, Nobody will be so pert)
 That this is not a moral tale, though gay;
 Besides, in Canto twelfth, I mean to show 1655
 The very place where wicked people go.²⁷⁶

208.

If, after all, there should be some So blind
 To their own Good this warning to despise,
 Led by some tortuosity of Mind,
 Not to believe my verse and their own eyes, 1660
 And cry that they "the moral can not find",
 I tell him, if a Clergyman, he lies;
 Should Captains the remark or Critics make,
 They also lie too – under a Mistake.

209.

The public approbation I expect, 1665
 And beg they'll take my word about the Moral,
 Which I with their amusement will connect,
 (So Children cutting teeth receive a Coral)
 Meantime, they'll doubtless please to recollect
 My Epical pretensions to the Laurel: 1670
 For fear Some prudish readers should grow skittish,
 I've bribed my Grandmother's Review – the British.²⁷⁷

274: *Mr Sotheby*: William Sotheby is praised in *EBSR* 815-18; B. subsequently changed his mind; see *Beppo* 575.

275: "the Blues": bluestockings; see below, IV 871-96.

276: ... in *Canto twelfth, I mean to show / The very place where wicked people go*: the canto actually introduces Juan into London society, including St. James's Palace and St. James's "Hells" (below, XI, 232)

277: *my Grandmother's review ... the British ... a letter to the Editor*: the editor of *The British Review*, a conservative journal very critical of *Don Juan*, solemnly denied having been bribed by B. in the way described, and took the untruth as evidence that *no peer of the British realm could surely be capable of so calumnious a falsehood*. See BLJ VI 213-14 and n. B.'s answer, "Letter to the Editor of *My Grandmother's Review*", appeared in the first number of *The Liberal*, along with *The Vision of Judgement*.

210.

I sent it in a letter to the Editor
 Who thanked me duly by return of post;
 I'm for a handsome Article his Creditor, 1675
 Yet if my gentle Muse he please to roast,
 And break a promise after having made it her,
 Denying the receipt of what it cost,
 And smear his page with Gall instead of Honey,
 All I can say is – that he had the money. 1680

211.

I think that with this Holy new Alliance²⁷⁸
 I may ensure the Public and defy
 All other Magazines of Art or Science
 Daily, or Monthly, or three Monthly; I
 Have not assayed to multiply their Clients, 1685
 Because they tell me 'twere in vain to try –
 And that the Edinburgh Review and Quarterly
 Treat a dissenting Author very Martyrly.²⁷⁹

212.

“Non Ego hoc ferrem calida Juventâ
 “Consule Planco”, Horace said,²⁸⁰ and so * 1690
 Say I; by which quotation there is meant a
 Hint that some six or seven good years ago
 (Long ere I dreamt of dating from the Brenta)²⁸¹
 I was most ready to return a blow,
 And would not brook at all this sort of thing 1695
 In my hot Youth – when George the third was King.²⁸²

* Me jam nec femina, – – –
 Nec Spes animi credula mutui
 Nec certare juvat mero, – – – –

PROOF: In both proofs, Byron erases **dyeing it** at 1699 and carets-in **a peruke**. Received Stanzas 214 and 215 are written on to the first proof, in the right-hand margin, 214 over 215. The second proof reads, **Insert Stanzas CCXIV, and CCXV**.

278: *this Holy new alliance:* The Holy Alliance, so styled by Tsar Alexander I, was formed between Russia, Prussia and Austria in 1815. It was autocratically pretentious, and Britain was not a member. B. puns on “wholly.”

279: *Martyrly:* the line disappoints our expectation of the rhyme “naughtily”. See *Who Killed John Keats?*, where B. rhymes *Quarterly* with *Tartarly*.

280: *Horace said:* in Odes, III 14, last verse: *I should not have born such things in the heat of my youth when Plancus was Consul*. A general reference to the way age mellows temper.

281: *ere I dreamt of dating from the Brenta:* Since coming to Venice. In 1817 B. rented a villa on the River Brenta, near Venice. In Voltaire’s *Candide*, the jaded Venetian dilettante Pococurante has a palace *sur la Brenta* (Chapter 25). Pococurante is an admirer of some (not all) of the poems of Horace.

282: The couplet drolly modernises the earlier lines from Horace; George III was still king when the lines were written, though he had been mentally incapable for the best part of a decade.

213.

But now at thirty years my hair is gray
 (I wonder what it will be like at forty?
 I thought about a Wig the other day)²⁸³
 My heart is not much greener, and, in short, I 1700
 Have squandered my whole Summer while 'twas May,
 And feel no more the Spirit to retort – I
 Have spent my life, both interest and principal,²⁸⁴
 And deem not, what I deemed, my Soul Invincible.

214.

No more – no more – Oh! never more on me 1705
 The freshness of the heart can fall like dew,
 Which out of all the lovely things we see
 Extracts emotions beautiful and new,
 Hived in our bosoms like the Bag o'the Bee:
 Think'st thou the honey with those objects grew? 1710
 Alas! 'twas not in them, but in thy power
 To double even the Sweetness of a flower.

215.

No more – no more – Oh! never more, my heart!
 Canst thou be my sole World, my Universe!
 Once all in all, but now a thing apart, 1715
 Thou canst not be my blessing or my curse;
 The illusion's gone for ever, and thou art
 Insensible, I trust, but none the worse,
 And in thy stead I've got a deal of Judgement,²⁸⁵
 Though Heaven knows how it ever found a lodgement. 1720

PROOF: Hobhouse writes, in the Notes section to Canto I, **Better add the whole or scratch out all after *femina*.** Byron erases with three verticals and two crossed obliques, and answers, **Quote the whole then it was only in compliance with your Settentrionale notions that I left out the remnant of the line. –**

283: *I thought about a wig the other day*: both rough draft and fair copy have *I thought of dyeing it the other day*; the proof has a *peruke*; B. finally decided on a *wig* in a letter to Hobhouse of May 17 1819 (BLJ VI 131): “– I have looked over the proofs – and *not* acquiesced in the Suggestions – by the way there is one line we will alter towards the close of Canto Ist. instead of ‘I thought of dying it the other day’ (i.e. *hair*) put – ‘I thought about a Wig the other day’.”

284: *both interest and principal*: has simultaneous financial, emotional and moral meaning.

285: *Judgement*: in proof, the first “e” here is blocked out. The two-e version of *Judgement* was always B.’s preferred spelling.

216.

My days of Love are over;²⁸⁶ me no more
 The Charms of Maid, wife, and still less of Widow,
 Can make the fool of which they made before; *
 In short, I must not lead the life I did do;
 The credulous Hope of mutual Minds is o'er – 1725
 The copious use of Claret is forbid too –
 So, for a good Old-gentlemanly Vice,
 I think I must take up with Avarice.

217.

Ambition was my Idol, which was broken
 Before the Shrines of Sorrow and of Pleasure, 1730
 And the two last have left me many a token²⁸⁷
 O'er which Reflection may be made at leisure,
 Now, like Friar Bacon's brazen Head, I've spoken,²⁸⁸
 "Time is, Time was, Time's past"; a chymic treasure
 Is glittering Youth which I have spent betimes, 1735
 My heart in passion, and my head on rhymes.

PROOF: Hobhouse writes against 1744, **don't swear again the third damn**[.] Byron erases with three verticals: but he also erases **d—d**, and carets-in **wretched** below. (It would actually have been the fourth damn, or damned: the other three are at I 112, 946 and 1301).

218.

What is the end of Fame? 'tis but to fill
 A certain portion of uncertain paper;
 Some liken it to climbing up a hill,
 Whose Summit, like all hills', is lost in vapour; 1740
 For this Men write, speak, preach, and Heroes kill;
 And Bards burn what they call their "Midnight taper,"
 To have, when the Original is dust,
 A Name, a wretched picture, and worse bust.²⁸⁹

286: Compare below, XIII, 2, 6.

287: *many a token*: refers, among other things, to infections.

288: *Friar Bacon's brazen head*: Robert Greene's *Friar Bacon and Friar Bungay* (1594) features a brass head which speaks by accident while the protagonist is asleep, giving its banal secrets (*Time is ... Time was ... Time is past*) to his foolish servant, before being mystically destroyed. The reference is not heroic, and is in keeping with the apparently self-parodic style in which B. is writing. He probably knew the story from Felice Romani's opera *La Testa di Bronzo Ossia la Capannina Solitaria*, which was showing at Milan late in 1816.

289: *worse bust*: B. had been disappointed by the bust made of him in 1817 by Bertel Thorwalsden, saying it looked insufficiently unhappy.

221.

But for the present, Gentle Reader! and
 Still gentler Purchaser! the Bard – that’s I –
 Must, with permission, shake you by the hand,
 And so your humble Servant, and Good Bye!
 We meet again, if we should understand 1765
 Each other, and if not, I shall not try
 Your patience further than by this short Sample –
 ’Twere well if Others followed my example.

222.

“Go, little book, from this my Solitude!²⁹⁴
 “I cast thee on the waters, Go thy ways! 1770
 “And if, as I believe, thy vein be good,
 “The World will find thee after many days.”
 When Southey’s read, and Wordsworth understood,
 I can’t help putting in my claim to praise –
 The four first rhymes are Southey’s every line:²⁹⁵ 1775
 For Godsake – Reader! – take them not for mine.²⁹⁶

Sept. 6th 1818 (*rough draft*)

November 1st 1818 (*fair copy*)

294: *Go, little book:* to add an Envoy was a conventional way of dismissing one’s book into the world upon completing it.

295: *Southey’s:* they are from the last verse of his 1816 poem *The Lay of the Laureate, or Carmen Nuptiale* (Wedding Song) a piece of gross, unctuous and imperialistic sycophancy which he wrote to celebrate the wedding of George IV’s daughter Charlotte with Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg. The two concluding stanzas go:

“*Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown;*”
Thus said the Bard who spake of kingly cares:
But calmly may the Sovereign then lie down
When grateful Nations guard him with their prayers:
How sweet a sleep awaits the Royal head,
When these keep watch and ward around the bed!

L’ENVOY

Go, little Book, from this my solitude,
I cast thee on the waters:..go thy ways!
And if, as I believe, thy vein be good,
The World will find thee after many days.
Be it with thee according to thy worth:..
Go, little Book! in faith I send thee forth.

296: *For Godsake – Reader! – take them not for mine:* not entirely ironical. Despite the political and poetical unlikelihood of our assuming him to have written *The Lay of the Laureate*, B. is still anxious to dissociate himself from Southey; it is as if he cannot shake off a subliminal sense of identity with him. See Dedication, 136n.

APPENDIX 1: JULIA'S LETTER

Hobhouse's proof comment at 1545-6, "Coppet to wit," implies that stanza 194 is an idea borrowed from Madame de Staël – Coppet was her Swiss home, where Byron and later Hobhouse were often visitors in 1816. The source may be something unrecorded which de Staël said then, or it may be this, from *Corinne, ou l'Italie*, Book XVIII chapter v:

<<Que les hommes sont heureux d'aller à la guerre, d'exposer leur vie, de se livrer à l'enthousiasme de l'honneur et du danger! Mais il n'y a rien au dehors qui soulage les femmes; leur existence, immobile en présence du malheur, est un bien long supplice!

[“How fortunate men are to go to war, to risk their lives, to give themselves up to the passion for honour and danger! But there is nothing outside themselves which relieves women. Their lives, unchanging in the presence of misfortune, are a very long torture.”]

In the copy owned by Teresa Guiccioli, Byron writes in the margin next to this paragraph, “No. – No.” (CMP 223). The marginalia were written on August 23rd 1819 – within eight months of Julia's letter.

Given *Corinne's* own creative gifts, it is a strange thing for her to say, and a sign of how seriously depressed and disturbed she is by this stage in the novel. The chapter continues:

<<Quelquefois, quand j'entends la musique, elle me retrace les talents que j'avais; le chant, la danse et la poésie; il me prend alors envie de me dégager du malheur, de reprendre à la joie: mais tout à coup un sentiment intérieur me fais frissonner; on dirait que je suis une ombre qui veut encore rester sur la terre, quand les rayons du jour, quand l'approche des vivants, la force à disparaître.

[“Sometimes, when I hear music, it reminds me of the talents I used to have, song, dance, and poetry. Then I have a desire to free myself from happiness, to be happy again. But suddenly a feeling within me makes me shudder. It is as if I were a ghost who still wants to remain on earth when the sun's rays, when the approach of the living, force her to disappear” - tr. Sylvia Raphael.]

In Teresa's copy, Byron writes in the margin next to this paragraph, “Oimè!” (CMP 223). de Staël may be writing independently of Ovid, who puts the following words into the mouth of Hero, near the start of *Heroides XIX (Hero Leandro, “Hero and Leander”)*:

Vos modo venando, modo rus geniale colendo
 pontis in varia tempora longa mora.
 aut fora vos retinent aut unctae dona palaestrae,
 flectitis aut freno colla sequacis equi;
 nunc volucrem laqueo, nunc piscem ducitis hamo;
 diluitur posito serior hora mero.
 his mihi summotae, vel si minus acriter urar,
 quod faciam, superest praeter amare nihil. (*Heroides XIX*, 9 -16)

[“You men, now in the chase, now in the genial acres of the country, consume long hours in the varied tasks that keep you. Either the market-place holds you, or the sports of the supple wrestling-ground, or you turn with bit the neck of the responsive steed; and now you take the bird with the snare, now the fish with the hook; and the later hours you while away with the wine before you. For me who am denied these things, even were I less fiercely aflame, there is nothing left to do but love.” - Loeb translation.]

However see also Jane Austen's *Persuasion*, Chapter 23 (Anne Elliott is speaking to Captain Wentworth, whom she loves):

Man is more robust than woman, but he is not longer-lived; which exactly explains my view of the nature of their attachments. Nay, it would be too hard upon you, if it were otherwise. You have

difficulties, privations, and dangers enough to struggle with. You are always labouring and toiling, exposed to every risk and hardship. Your home, country, friends, all quitted. Neither time, nor health, nor life, to be called your own, It would be too hard indeed” (with a faltering voice) “if woman’s feelings were to be added to all this.

Notice that the selfless Anne Elliott expresses no envy of the man’s lot, but contrariwise is arguing that because their lives are so full, a wife would only add to their burden. Her “faltering voice”, however, betrays her. She too is jealous of man’s capacity for activity, and would wish, by marrying Wentworth, to share it.

Although there is no mention of Jane Austen anywhere in Byron’s writing, *Persuasion* was published by Murray in 1818. For Jane Austen’s implicit opinion of Byron, see the conversation between Anne and Captain Benwick (who has undergone the death of his fiancée):

... having talked of poetry, the richness of the present age, and gone through a brief comparison of opinion as to the first-rate poets, trying to ascertain whether *Marmion* or *The Lady of the Lake* were to be preferred, and how ranked the *Giaour* and *The Bride of Abydos*; and moreover, how the *Giaour* was to be pronounced, he shewed himself so intimately acquainted with all the tenderest songs of the one poet, and all the impassioned descriptions of hopeless agony of the other; he repeated, with such tremulous feeling, the various lines which imaged a broken heart, or a mind destroyed by wretchedness, and looked so entirely as if he meant to be understood, that she [Anne] ventured to hope he did not always read only poetry; and to say, that it was the misfortune of poetry, to be seldom safely enjoyed by those who enjoyed it completely; and that the strong feelings which alone could estimate it truly, were the very feelings which ought to taste it but sparingly.

His looks shewing him not pained, but pleased with this allusion to his situation, she was emboldened to go on; and feeling in herself the right superiority of mind, she ventured to recommend a larger allowance of prose in his daily study; and on being requested to particularize, mentioned such works of our best moralists, such collections of the finest letters, such memoirs of characters of worth and suffering, as occurred to her at the moment to rouse and fortify the mind by the highest precepts, and the strongest examples of moral and religious endurance. (*Persuasion*, Vol I Chapter 11).

If we take Byron’s *Corinne* marginalia to be ironical, we may guess that he shares Anne Elliott’s attitude to his own emotional early verse. And by the end of *Persuasion*, Captain Benwick has forgotten his fiancée and fallen in love with someone else.

APPENDIX 2: JULIA’S LETTER, AND THE BROUGHAM STANZAS

At line 1513, Byron gives us five texts to follow.

(A) the rough draft of the seven stanzas named after Henry Brougham, like Romilly a lawyer and politician whom Byron hated (see note on next page). Byron, who wrote six of them, it is assumed, in 1818, intended them to have been inserted after line 1512 above, as a reading will show; but he rejected them in favour of the section including Julia’s letter.

(B) The fair copy of the Brougham Stanzas, which presents a slight problem. Col., the first edition to print the stanzas, has the following sequence:

- (i) 'Twas a fine cause for those in law delighting ...
- (ii) Bully in Senates, Skulker in the field ...
- (iii) Tory by nurture, Whig by Circumstance ...
- (iv) The House of Commons Damocles of words ...
- (v) How noble is his language, never pert ...
- (vi) Panting for power, as harts for cooling streams ...
- (vii) A strange example of the force of law ...

(v) is at the mercy of editors. Its rough draft is separate, and Byron tells Murray in a covering letter (BLJ VII 188) that it was written two years after the rest. In fair-copy it is written vertically

in the left-hand margin of the second side of the sheet. Col. places it fifth, and DJV follows suit, as naturally does DJP. CPW prints it last. As there is no development to the portrait (its gist being that Brougham cannot develop) the exact internal sequence is irrelevant beyond the first two lines of the first stanza, and the late stanza could as well go fifth, or second, or fourth, or third; but the final lines of (vii) are a more suitable conclusion (see note below). I am with Col., DJV and DJP in putting the late stanza fifth.

The rough draft is on three sheets, two in the John Murray Archive, and one (containing the later verse) in the Houghton Library at Harvard: the complete fair copy is at Murray's.

(C) the rough draft of the section which has always been the standard text at this point (Stanzas 190-8) featuring Julia's letter to Juan.

(D) and (E) The two fair-copies of the "Julia's letter" section, which Byron sent to Murray on December 7th 1818 ("M¹" - see BLJ VI 85) and on May 6th 1819, after the first had got lost ("M²" - see BLJ VI 122). Here I do follow CPW, the first edition to use the earlier sequence. The main difference is in the positioning of Stanzas 195 and 196, which in "M¹" go

**My Breast has been all weakness, is so yet ...
You will proceed in beauty, and in pride ...**

while "M²" has

**You will proceed in pleasure, and in pride ...
My breast has been all Weakness, is so yet ...**

It is striking that Byron should at different times have felt either the stanzas abusing Brougham (at which he obviously worked extremely hard, as the drafts show) or Julia's tragic letter (which gave him fractionally less creative bother) to be fit continuation of the epic.

The Brougham Stanzas were sent in fair copy to Murray late in 1820, with the following note (BLJ VII 188 - 189):

I enclose you the stanzas which were intended for 1st Canto, after the line,

"Who to Madrid on purpose made a journey:"

but I do not mean them for present publication, because I will not, at this distance, publish *that* of a Man, for which he has a claim upon another too remote to give him redress.

With regard to the Miscreant Brougham, however, it was only long after the fact, and I was made acquainted with the language he had held of me on my leaving England (with regard to the D[uchess] of D[evonshire]'s house, and his letter to M[adam]e. de Staël, and various matters of which the first time he and I foregather - be it in England, be it on earth - he shall account, and one of the two be carried home.

As I have no wish to have mysteries, I merely prohibit the *publication* of these stanzas in *print*, for the reasons of fairness mentioned; but I by no means wish *him* not to *know* their existence or their tenor, nor my intentions as to himself: he has shown no forbearance, and he shall find none. You may show them to *him* and to all whom it may concern, with the explanation that the only reason that I have not had satisfaction of this man has been, that I have never had an opportunity [...]

I send you the stanzas, which (except the last) have been written nearly two years, merely because I have lately been copying out most of the MSS which were in my drawers.

Henry Brougham (pronounced *Broom*: 1778-1868) was a brilliant and eccentric Whig lawyer and politician who had incurred Byron's anger by slanders – similar to those Byron asserted Southey to have propagated – spoken at London, Rome and elsewhere. On February 18th 1817, Murray had written to Byron of "B.", "**as your incessant persecutor - the source of all affected public opinion respecting you**" (quoted LJ VI, 67n). Byron also suspected Brougham – correctly – of having written a bad review of *Hours of Idleness* in 1809. He challenged him to a duel two years after having written the stanzas (see BLJ VII 95-6) just as he challenged Southey (BLJ IX 102)

but Douglas Kinnaird forwarded neither challenge. Brougham subsequently defended Queen Caroline in her “trial” for adultery, was a founder of London University, and (1830-1835) Lord Chancellor. Byron is concerned to deny Brougham any capacity for either successful political change, morally meaningful change, or solid, changeless integrity.

The portrait proceeds by a series of spiralling, self-invalidating antitheses which finally deprive their subject of any humanity at all. It is a satirical theme learnt in part from Shakespeare and Jonson (see notes to 31-2) in part from Dryden’s portrait of Zimri in *Absalom and Achitophel* (who, *Stiff in Opinions, always in the wrong; / Was every thing by starts, and nothing long*) and in part from Sheridan’s deeply uneasy portrait of Sir Fretful Plagiary in *The Critic*: one which Byron was to develop further in the Dedication to this poem, and bring finally to fruition in *The Vision of Judgement*. Yet underlying and fuelling the derision is a fear that the endless see-sawing and rotting by perpetual motion, between one kind of static inadequacy and another, is a psychological and social problem faced by the poet himself.

’Twas a fine cause for those in law delighting
 Tis pity that they had no Brougham in Spain -
 Famous for always talking, and ne’er fighting
 For calling names and taking them again,
 For blustering, bungling, trimming, wrangling, writing, 5
 Groping all paths to power, and all in vain,
 Losing elections, character, and temper,
 A foolish clever fellow, “Idem semper”! –²⁹⁷

Bully in Senates, Skulker in the field,
 The Adulterer’s advocate when duly feed,²⁹⁸ 10
 The libeller’s gratis Counsel, dirty Shield²⁹⁹
 Which Law affords to many a dirty deed,
 A wondrous Warrior against those who yield,
 A Rod to weakness, to the brave a reed,
 The People’s Sycophant, the Prince’s foe 15
 And serving him the more by being so.

Tory by nurture, Whig by Circumstance,
 A Democrat some once or twice a year
 Whene’er it suits his purpose to advance
 His vain ambition in it’s vague career, 20
 A Sort of Orator by sufferance
 Less for the comprehension than the ear
 With all the arrogance of endless power,
 Without the Sense to keep it for an hour, -

297: “*Idem semper!*”: always the same. See *Don Juan* XVII 11, where B. applies the phrase to himself; and note about Southey, this Canto, last line.

298: *the Adulterer’s advocate*: B. refers, unfairly, to Brougham’s public championship of Queen Caroline, the estranged wife of George IV: at the subsequent process to determine whether or not she had been adulterous (it took place in 1821) Brougham defended her, and she was exonerated.

299: *the libeller’s gratis Counsel*: in 1812 Brougham had unsuccessfully defended John and Leigh Hunt against a charge of libelling the Prince Regent. The Hunts were subsequently associates of B., John publishing *Don Juan* Cantos VI to XVI. At the time of Hunt’s trial on another charge, B. had written to Hunt, “**I should feel highly honoured in Mr. Brougham’s permission to make his acquaintance**” (BLJ III 203); but his feelings subsequently changed. See also *Don Juan* X St.15: “**A legal broom’s a moral chimney-sweeper.**”

The House of Commons Damocles of words³⁰⁰ 25
 Above him hanging by a single hair
 On each harangue depend some hostile Swords,
 And deems he that we always will forbear?
 Although defiance oft declined affords
 A blotted shield no Shire's true knight would wear, 30
 Thersites of the House, Parolles of Law,
 The double Bobadil takes scorn for awe. –³⁰¹

How noble is his language, never pert,³⁰²
 How grand his Sentiments which neer run riot,
 As when he swore "By G—d he'd sell his shirt 35
 To head the poll." I wonder who would buy it?
 The Skin has passed through such a deal of dirt
 In grovelling on to power, such stains now dye it,
 So black the long worn Lion's hide in hue
 You'd swear his very heart had sweated through. 40

Panting for power, as harts for cooling streams³⁰³
 Yet half afraid to venture for the draught,
 A Go-between, yet blundering in extremes,
 And tossed along the vessel fore and aft,
 Now shrinking back, now midst the first he seems, 45
 Patriot by force, and Courtisan³⁰⁴ by craft,
 Quick without wit, and violent without strength,
 A disappointed Lawyer at full length. -

A strange example of the force of law
 And hasty temper on a kindling mind, 50
 Are these the dreams his young Ambition saw?
 Poor fellow! he had better far been blind,
 I'm sorry thus to probe a wound so raw,
 But then as Bard my duty to mankind
 For warning to the rest, compels these raps 55
 As Geographers lay down a Shoal in Maps.

300: *Damocles of words:* Damocles flattered King Dionysius of Syracuse, who, in an attempt to convince him of how precarious good fortune was, sat him at a banquet beneath a sword suspended by a single hair. Brougham thus constantly tempts fate by his ill manners in Parliament.

301: *Thersites ... Parolles ... Bobadil:* scurrilous and braggart wretches in, respectively, the *Iliad* and *Troilus and Cressida* (Thersites) *All's Well That Ends Well* (Parolles) and Ben Jonson's *Every Man In His Humour* (Bobadil). *Bobadil* is a corruption of *Boabdil* (see above, 446 and n). At below, XIII 84, Brougham figures as *Parolles ... the legal bully*.

302: This stanza goes fifth in C., DJV, DJP, and the present version; CPW places it last. It was written later than the others, as its marginal position in the fair copy shows. The manuscript of the rough draft is in the Houghton Library at Harvard, with a comment, *last verse of Byron's original libel on Brougham to have been inserted in Don Juan*.

303: *Panting for power, as harts for cooling streams:* see Psalm 42: *As the hart panteth for the water brooks, so panteth my soul for thee, O God!*

304: *Courtesan:* often means prostitute: in this case primarily an archaic word for courtier.

