

From: Aaron Ybarra  
Subject: Re: Nature vs. Progress  
Date: February 26, 2016 at 6:52:40 PM EST  
To: Joseph Cassidy

Ok, so I did a comparative study on the two poems: blown away all over again!  
Here are some things that jumped out at me:

-In Stanza 1, the Industry poem says all the gems “are brought *to* the forefront of information;” In Nature, they are brought “*from* the brink.” The emphasis on the former is the result, the latter focuses on the what it took to produce that result. Ends justify the means v. counting the cost.

-In Stanza 2, Industry says the machines *gain* us “beautiful chaos;” in Nature, there is an intangible something *lost* in “tumult.” Physical v. spiritual.

-Again, in Stanza 3, we see very nice wordplay... meals v. mills, wheel being advancement v. wheel being danger, "organism of life" v. “asphyxiating death.”

-Now, things get really interesting in Stanza 4 with “colleagues... cohorts... fathers... brothers” v. “brothers... sisters... fathers... mothers.” We see professions replacing family, and women being removed out of the picture entirely. Plus, Industry ignores Nature’s warning with “forward progress” even though nature says “this is not the way.”

-In Stanza 5, Industry pushes forward with “new authors new ideas” where as Nature begs we return back to the Garden.

-Stanza 6 plants us firmly in the Age of Reason, where Industry moves beyond the Nature’s Renaissance’s nostalgia and lifts up instead “science and higher learning.”

-In that vein, Stanza 7 has Industry building upon, even perfecting the old masters (“complete your training” as Star Wars Sith would say) where as Nature holds that the old ways were not so old-fashioned after all

-In the final Stanza (8), we see everything comes to a head. Industry’s argument hinges upon “survival” (fitting) where as Nature’s hinges upon “hope.” Industry ironically promises “fruit” whereas Nature predicts war (end times?). Industry holds that the old ways were restrictive, slavish even, and lambasts God and the ancients are tyrants. Interestingly, Nature takes no opportunity to attack the opposition, but rather resigns itself to meditate on what it holds as good- God and man.

Dude, this is heavy stuff. It’s the old argument: Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil v. Tree of Life. In all honesty, there is a synthesis, but not a written one. *We* are the synthesis, you see. We stand between the two trees, deciding daily

which tree to eat from. Education v. Ignorance. Advancement v. Nostalgia. Movement v. Meditation. Wow! What a God we serve! We are His people but not His puppets, His pride yet also His pain. We bear His fingerprint, harbor His Spirit, but He allows us to entertain demons as readily as angels so that we might experience the fullness of life. This poem is so reflective of our conversation.

You are a truly wonderful and talented man, my friend! Thank you for inciting this.

All God's blessings to you!

On Feb 25, 2016, at 12:11 PM, Joseph Cassidy wrote:  
Aaron,

I like this one. Well executed sir

The industrial age is upon us  
Fancy ships carry the gifts of machine and man  
Parts unknown now are known, beautiful gems of knowledge  
Are brought to the forefront of information

New colors have been found, new machines!  
And what has been gained  
In this beautiful chaos?

Once man had to break backs for their meals  
Then they invented the wheel  
Nomadic man traveled on foot  
Now cities have sprung forth from industrial root  
Creating its own organism of life

Colleagues!  
Cohorts!  
Fathers and Brothers alike!  
We have found the way!  
Forward progress yes  
The future is here and tomorrow is the horizon

Into the new dawn,  
New authors new ideas,  
We will not be held slaves to antiquated ideas of Adam and Eve

We have learned from the Classics  
What we need to know  
Now for the new masters, of science and higher learning

We shall create machines  
That will allow man to fly unburdened by land or sea

We must ensure the survival of progress at all cost  
For our children to enjoy the fruits of knowledge  
We must not be shackled by ideas  
of God and man

Love you man,

-Joe

On Thu, Feb 18, 2016 at 6:07 PM, Aaron Ybarra wrote:  
Yo Cassidy,

Always good talking to you. As requested, I propose a challenge, a poetic duel:  
the Romantics v. the Victorians, Wordsworth v. Dickens, Nature vs. Progress.  
Feel free to reply in any manner you'd like. After this, the floor is yours:

The industrial age is upon us  
Fancy ships carry the imperial glory  
to unexplored parts and bring exotic gems  
back from the brink.

we have new colors, new machines  
but what have we lost  
in the tumult?

our men break their backs in the mills  
our women prick their fingers upon the wheels  
our cities are covered in soot  
the so-called London fog covers our beloved city  
in asphyxiating death.

no, brothers!  
no, sisters!  
fathers and mothers alike  
this is not the way,  
not forward, no  
the only way to press onward is to go back

back to the classics,  
to the Garden, Eden, where the Divine touched Adam's hand  
and David dance undignified before his subjects

We must go back to the classics,

to Homer and Shakespeare,  
to Plato and Michelangelo

we were more forward than we thought then  
even Da Vinci had his flying machine

in order for there to be any hope for future generations  
we must abandon the war-machines of industry  
and sit in quiet contemplation  
before God and man

Blessings,  
A.