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An Unpublished Poem about Blake by William
Bell Scott

George Goyder

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UNNOTICED PRINTINGS OF BLAKE'S POEMS, 1825-1851

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I have discovered several printings of Blake's poems, two of which are of particular interest because they occurred during the poet's lifetime. The texts of these poems and the circumstances of their printings are discussed in articles about C. A. Tulk, Blake's Swedenborgian patron, and about Pamela Chandler Colman which I am now preparing for publication. The article about Mrs. Colman, complete with her Victorian illustrations of Blake's poems, will appear in a future number of *Blake Newsletter*.

April and July 1825. "The Divine Image" and "On Another's Sorrow" from *Innocence* were printed in *The Dawn of Light and Theological Inspector*, "Complete in One Volume" (London: Thomas Goyder, 1825), pp. 144, 252.

July and August 1843. "Introduction" to *Innocence* and "The Blossom" from *Innocence* were printed in the *Boys' and Girls' Magazine*, ed. Mrs. S. [Pamela Chandler] Colman, 2 (Boston: T. H. Carter, May-August 1843), 73-74, 142.

September and October 1843. "Nurse's Song" and "Laughing Song" from *Innocence* were printed in the *Boys' and Girls' Magazine*, ed. Mrs. S. [Pamela Chandler] Colman, 3 (Boston: T. H. Carter, September-December 1843), 9, 66.

August-December 1843. "The Lamb," "The Shepherd," "The Blossom," and "A Dream" from *Innocence* and "The Lilly" from *Experience* were printed in *The New Church Magazine for Children*, 1 (Boston: Otis Clapp, July-December 1843), 59, 112, 126, 159, 160.

21 October 1843. "The Lamb" from *Innocence* was printed in *The Retina*, ed. William C. Howells, 1 (Hamilton, Ohio: Printed and Published by the Editor, 1843-44), 47.

1843. "A Dream" from *Innocence* was printed as "Story of the Emmet. (A Dream)" in *The Little Keepsake for 1844*, ed. Mrs. S. [Pamela Chandler] Colman and first sold during the latter part of 1843 as a holiday gift for the new year (Boston: T. H. Carter, [1843]), pp. 34-36.

June 1844. "Nurse's Song" from *Innocence* was printed in *The New Church Magazine for Children*, 2 (Boston: Otis Clapp, January-June 1844), 191.

July 1844. "The Child and Lamb" (i.e. "The Lamb" from *Innocence*) and also "Evening Hymn," a poem incorrectly attributed to Blake, were printed in the *Boys' and Girls' Library*, ed. Mrs. S. [Pamela Chandler] Colman, 2 (Boston: T. H. Carter, [May-August 1844]), 87, 47.

December 1844. "The Divine Image" from *Innocence* was printed in *The New Church Advocate*, 2 (London: W. Newbery, 1844-45), 191.

March 1846. "The Lamb" from *Innocence* was printed in *The Little Truth-Teller: A New Church Magazine for Children*, 1 (Philadelphia: Published by a Committee of the General Convention, 1846), 71.

January 1848. "Night" from *Innocence* was printed in *The New Church Magazine for Children*, 6 (Boston: Otis Clapp, 1848), 17-18.

September 1851. "The Human Form" (i.e. "The Divine Image" from *Innocence*) was printed in *Heat and Light for the Nineteenth Century*, 1, No. 1 (Boston: Otis Clapp, September 1851), 32.

AN UNPUBLISHED POEM ABOUT BLAKE BY WILLIAM BELL SCOTT

GEORGE GOYDER

My copy of the 1808 quarto edition of Blair's *Grave*¹ is the original subscriber's copy which belonged to Robert Scott, father of William Bell Scott. It contains the bookplate of William Bell Scott, his signature on the title-page dated 5 March 1849, and a poem inserted at the end in MS. The text is as follows:

On seeing again after many years
William Blake's designs for 'the Grave'

There was a time before the chick could fly
But still was screened by the maternal wing
I looked on these with awe, they were a spring
Of marvels: had not God on high
Shown innocent William what it is to die,
And made him paint the raptures of the pain,--
Body, soul parting but to meet again,
The truths concealed within futurity?

And now that years have shriven and tonsured me
When labouring much in various fields have filled
The tablets of my brain, these pictures burn
With their old fires by whose light still I see
An inspiration, in art littlest skilled²--
My soul leaps up, my childhood's awes return.

W. B. S.

¹ Several of the pages are watermarked J. S. Whatman 1807; others are 1808. One of the engravings is of the 1807 watermark. The copy is in original cloth with leather edges and back.

² First written, "An inspiration, not mere handwork skilled," then "An inspiration, in art that littlest skilled"; "that" was then deleted.