On Homer's Poetry

Every Poem must necessarily be a perfect Unity, but why Homer is peculiarly so, I cannot tell: he has told the story of Hellas and omitted the Judgment of Paris which is not only a part but a principal part of Homer's Subject. But when a Work has Unity it is as much in a Part as in the Whole, the Torso is as much a Unity as the Laocoon. As Unity is the dote of folly to Goodness, as the dote of A Knave; those who will have Unity exclusively in Homer come out with a Moral like a string in the tuft: Aristotle says Characters are either Good or Bad: now Goodness or Badness has nothing to do with Character, an Apple tree a Pine tree a Horse a Lion are Characters but a Good Apple tree or a Bad an Apple tree still a Horse is not more a Lion, for being a Bad Horse, that is its Character. its Goodness or Badness is another consideration.

It is the same with the Moral of a whole Poem as with the Moral Goodness of its parts. Unity & Morality are secondary considerations & belong to Philosophy & not to Poetry & Exposition do not to Rule, to Accident & not to Substance; the Ancients called it eating of the tree of good & evil.

The Classics, it is the Classics & not Gothic nor Monks, that Desolate Europe with Wars.

On Virgil

Sacred Truth has pronounced that Greece & Rome as Babylom Egypt so far from being parents of Arts & Sciences as they pretend were destroyers of all Art. Homer Virgil & Ovid confirm this opinion & make us reverence the Word of God. the only light of antiquity that remains unpierced by War. Virgil in the Enid Book VI line 848 says Let others study Art: Rome has somewhat better to do. namely War & Dominion.

Rome & Greece swept Art into their snow & destroyed it a Warlike State never can produce Art. It will Rob & plunder & accumulate into one place, & Translate & Copy & Buy & Sell & Criticise, but not Make. Greecian is Mathematic Form, Mathematic Form is Eternal in Gothic is Living the Reasoning Memory. Living Form is Eternal Existence.
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