

The Temple Newsam poem

In 1767 while Brown was at work at Temple Newsam Sydney Swinney dedicated a lengthy 'verse epistle' to Lord Irwin. He gives a history of the modern landscape movement, heaping praise on Brown's work at Temple Newsam. He anticipated the completion of the Brown's vision.

...But you, my Lord, at Temple Newsam find,
The charms of Nature gracefully combin'd
Sweet waving hills, with wood and verdure crown'd
And winding vales, where murmuring streams resound:
Slopes fring'd with Oaks which gradual die away,
And all around romantic scenes display.
Delighted still along the park we rove,
Vary'd with Hill and Dale, with Wood and Grove:
O'er velvet Lawns what noble Prospects rise,
Fair as the Scenes that Ruben's hand supplies.
But when the Lake shall these sweet Grounds adorn,
And bright expanding like the eye of Morn,
Reflect whate'er above its surface rise,
The hills, the Rocks, the Woods and varying Skies,
Then will the wild and beautiful combine,
And taste in Beauty grace your whole Design.
But you Great Artist, like the source of light,
Gilds every Scene with beauty and delight;
At Blenheim, Croome and Caversham we trace
Salvator's wildness, Claude's enlivening grace,
Cascades and Lakes fine as Risdale drew,
While Nature's vary'd in each charming view.
To paint his works wou'd Poussin's Powers require
Milton's sublimity, and Dryden's fire:
For both the Sister Arts in him combin'd
Enriched the great ideas of his mind;
And these still brighten all his vast designs,
For here the Painter, there the Poet shine !
With just contempt he spurns all further rules,
And shows true Taste is not confin'd to schools.
He barren tracks with every charm illumines,
At his command a new creation blooms:
Born to grace Nature, and her works complete,
With all that's beautiful, sublime and great;
For him each Muse enwreathes the Laurel Crown,
And consecrates to Fame immortal Brown.