

can claim ~~then~~ regard only as examples of depressed
and contracted ^{genius} ~~power~~ ~~of a kind which is much~~ ~~more~~ ~~gentle~~ ~~as to be much~~ ~~and~~ ~~in~~ ~~illustrious~~ ~~as to become more elastic~~
~~in some respects - more graceful for depression - and~~
~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~more~~ ~~vivid~~ ~~by~~ ~~contrast~~. But there are

other respects in which these seemingly unimportant
works challenge ~~more~~ ~~grave~~ ~~study~~, and ~~represent~~
some of the ^{our own} phases of national mind - and I may even
say, of ^{universal} European civilization, which ~~belongs~~
to many ~~important~~ ^{interesting} ~~changes~~ ~~in~~ ~~social~~ ~~manners~~,
and may lead to ~~yet~~ ~~more~~ ~~important~~ ~~results~~ -
in social happiness.

If the reader has any familiarity with the ^{public} ~~classical~~
^{collection} galleries of paintings, or the scarcely less ^{rich} ~~well~~
galleries of English - and a few remaining of Italian
palaces, he cannot but retain a clear, though
monotonous, impression of the character of their
polished 'flower-pieces' or 'still-life' pieces which
occupy subordinate corners in their great rooms,
and ~~engage~~ ^{of refreshing} ~~write~~ ~~to~~ ~~a~~ ~~moment~~, ~~fix~~ ~~the~~ ~~attention~~
and imagination which have been ~~exercised~~ ^{in admiring} ~~with~~ ~~the~~ ~~attentiveness~~ ~~of~~
and sympathizing with the sentiments of piety. Recalling
to his memory ^{the} ~~best~~ ~~examples~~ ~~of~~ ~~these~~ ~~as~~ ~~his~~ ~~own~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~ancient~~ ~~and~~
his experience can supply, he will find that all ^{the} ~~agree~~
in a certain courtliness and formality of arrangement -
implying that the highest ^{honour} ~~place~~, and the most delightful
office, which flowers can attain or fulfil - is one of ^{that} ~~united~~
in their wreath of grace of ^{united} ~~service~~ ~~to~~ ~~a~~ ~~wreath~~ ~~or~~ ~~garland~~ ~~or~~ ~~gath~~ ~~ered~~ ~~into~~
wreath the glory of bouquets, for decoration of beauty,
a flattery of noblesse; - if fruit ^{or} ~~other~~ ~~pieces~~, they agree
no less distinctly in their manner of reference to the ^{supper} ~~table~~
~~is~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~accomplished~~ ~~at~~ ~~a~~ ~~royal~~ ~~dessert~~ - and the furred
and feathered life of hell and fresh in, ^{and} ~~one~~ ~~kitchen~~ ~~dresser~~.