



“A Curiosity.” *Farmers’ Steuben Advocate* (Bath, Steuben Co., New York): Volume 68, Number 47 (Wednesday, November 21, 1883): Page 2

“The following lines are a curiosity. They were written for and read before the lyceum at Fredericktown, Ohio, March 1835 by David Wadsworth, grandfather of P.S. Burditt, Big Creek, and of Mrs. Eliza Potter and Mrs. Almeda Allen, South Dansville.

It will be noticed there are one hundred lines, and every line ends with “ion.” They were composed forty-nine years ago.”

PRIDE AND OSTENTATION

When I take into consideration
My humble state and situation,
And view my want of education
And lack of skill in versification,
I feel a very peculiar sensation,
When I presume to take my station,
In presence of a congregation,
To give a brief delineation
Or fix a proper estimation
On all the vile abomination,
Which flow from Pride and Ostentation.

We learn from common observation,
That in our civil recreation,
And in our friendly conversation,
And in our private mediation
As well as public ministration,
In all our secret machination;
In all the rounds of dissipation;
In all the hours of contemplation;
In every social combination;
In preaching and in exhortation-
Which ought to be for edification-
We feel a thirst for domination,
Which flow from Pride and Ostentation.

And when we touch on reputation,
How fruitful is the imagination;
How full of sly intimidation;
How much of foolish affectation,
And how much misrepresentation;
What wonderful exaggeration;
What hatred and retaliation,
And how much base calumination;

What envy and dissimulation,
And how much cruel deformation;
And what a dear manifestation
Of love of Pride and Ostentation.

And now I feel an inclination
To give a word of exhortation
To those of every denomination
Who realize their situation;
Or wish to know their destination,
To lay aside all Ostentation,
And in the depths of humiliation,
By prayer and solemn supplication-
Combined with self-examination-
To make a fair investigation
Of the sound science of salvation,
As given by divine inspiration,
In the precious book of Revelation.

And when we make the computation,
Beware of any equivocation,
Or any mental reservation,
Or any false interpretation
Lest ye fall into temptation
What use in so much speculation
About election and reprobation;
Of knowledge and foreordination;
Of decrees and predestination;
Of endless sin and condemnation,
And the law denunciation;
And all the long concatenation
Of all the vanity and vexation,
Which fill the mind with perturbation,
And often end in desperation.

But thanks to Him who rules Creation-
For his all-wise administration-
Who, under the Gospel dispensation,
Gave his own son a propitiation,
The best and brightest constellation
That ever-shed illumination
On any people tongue or nation!
How worthy of all acceptation-
That Jesus, by his incarnation,
His life and death and meditation,
Effected our emancipation
From bondage and contamination
And gave the word, Reconciliation,
Which promises a new Creation;
And gives us life and animation,
And proves the final restoration
Of every part of God’s creation.

To Him be all the adoration,
For his unspeakable donation.
Which baffles all our calculation,
And gives such solid consolation
As fills the soul with admiration,
And gives a blast anticipation
Of that estate of exaltation,
When we shall share the participation
Beyond the reach of Tribulation;
And cursed Pride and Ostentation
Be doomed to total annihilation.

If this my singular narration,
Should chance to meet the approbation
Of this attentive congregation,
I hope they’ll make the application,
So let it be, says Resignation.



Steuben Advocate.

WITH SUPPLEMENT.

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