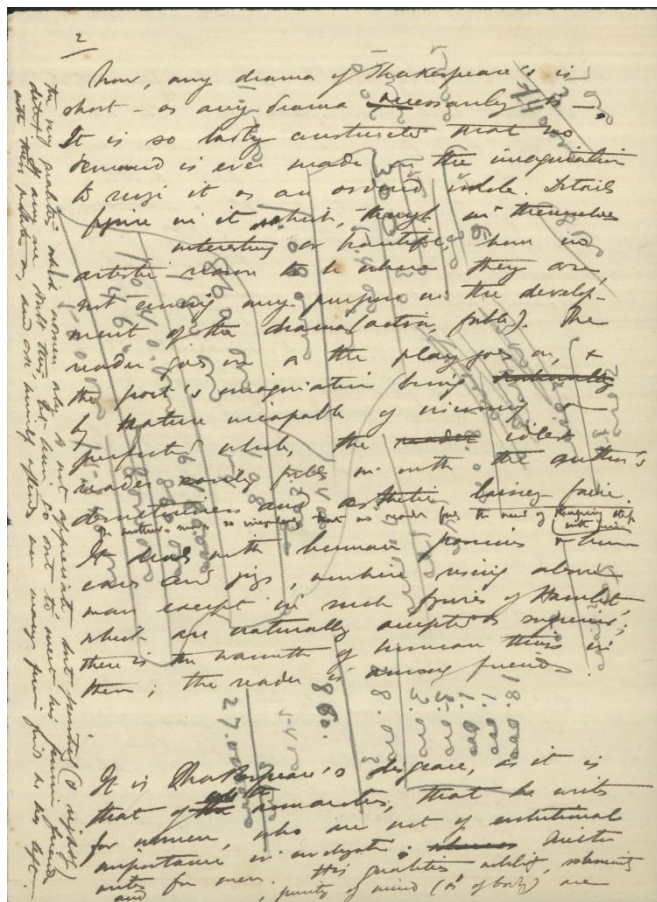


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The reason why Milton is not appreciated is that why Shakespeare is. At all times, and the more ^{so} the nearer we come to ours, men have had little ability to concentrate their attention. In modern times this inability has reached, where it has not positively passed, what Culler calls the frontiers of disease. Now a poem like *Paradise Lost* which, beside being long, is so perfectly ordered and constructed that it has to be grasped as a developed whole to be properly appreciated (and not merely tasted at its "purple patches"), makes very large demands on our attention and on our concentration, first; and, after, on the still rarer qualities involved in grasping a unified whole not schematically, but through several interdependent parts through which it is manifested. Besides this which meets the common man, and still more the common modern, at all points of his psychic disabilities, the subject of *Paradise Lost*, set up above humanity and humanness, needs a further straining of the imagination to accompany, without loss of health, the poet in such rarefied atmospheres.

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Now, any drama of Shakespeare's is short - as any drama necessarily is -. It is so badly constructed that no demand is ever made on the imagination to seize it as an ordered whole. Details figure in it which, though in themselves {...} interesting or beautiful, have no artistic reason to be where they are, not serving any purpose in the development of the drama / (action, fable) \. The reader goes on as the play goes on, and the poet's imagination being naturally by nature incapable of increasing a perfect whole, the reader idlest reader easily falls in with the author's desultoriness and aesthetic *laissez-faire*.

The author moves so irregularly that no reader feels the need of keeping step with him.

It deals with human passions and human cares and joys, nowhere rising above man except in such figures of Hamlet, which are naturally accepted as superior; there is the warmth of human things in them; the reader is among friends.

It is Shakespeare's disgrace, as it is that of ~~the all~~ the romantics, that he writes for women, who are not of evolutionary importance in civilization; whereas Milton writes for men. His qualities, nobility, solemnity and {...}, purity of mind (as of body) are the very qualities which women only do not appreciate, but positively (and rightly) detest. If any one doubts this, let him go out to meet his feminine friends with these qualities on, and ask himself afterwards how many feminine friends he has left.

DIREITOS ASSOCIADOS

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