

illustrate my meaning than by his introductory description to the "Panegyric on Great Britain": —

"Heavens ! what a goodly prospect spreads around,  
Of hills, and dales, and woods, and lawns, and spires,  
And glittering towns, and gilded streams, till all  
The stretching landscape into smoke decays !"

Now, the prospect from the hill at Hagley furnished me with the true explanation of this enumerative style. Measured along the horizon, it must, on the lowest estimate, be at least fifty miles in longitudinal extent ; measured laterally, from the spectator forwards, at least twenty. Some of the Welsh mountains which it includes are nearly thrice that distance ; but then they are mere remote peaks, and the area at their bases not included in the prospect. The real area, however, must rather exceed than fall short of a thousand square miles ; the fields into which it is laid out are small, scarcely averaging a square furlong in superficies ; so that each square mile must contain about forty, and the entire landscape, — for all is fertility, — about forty thousand. With these there are commixed innumerable cottages, manor-houses, villages, towns. Here the surface is dimpled by unreckoned hollows ; there fretted by uncounted mounds ; all is amazing, overpowering multiplicity, — a multiplicity which neither the pen nor the pencil can adequately express ; and so description, in even the hands of a master, sinks into mere enumeration. The picture becomes a catalogue ; and all that genius can accomplish in the circumstances is just to do with its catalogue what Homer did with his, — dip it in poetry. I found, however, that the innumerable details of the prospect, and its want of strong leading features, served to dissipate and distract the mind, and to associate with the vast whole an idea of littleness, somewhat in the way that