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PDF Table Talk To Which Are Added Imaginary Conversations Of Pope And Swift The International magazine of literature, art, and science Imaginary Conversations at www.nxgvision.com Walter Savage Landor 98, added to the mortification The.

His father, Isaac, was descended from one of the oldest settlers in Barbadoes, and studied at a college in Philadelphia, U. He encountered much persecution as a loyalist, and finally, with broken fortunes, came to England, where he became a popular metropolitan preacher. His manners were theatrical, and he was fond of society. He acquired a reputation for unsteadiness, which prevented him from getting preferment in the church. He was subsequently placed on the Loyalist Pension Fund with l. Leigh Hunt was a delicate child. He was watched over with great tenderness by his mother, and after a short visit to the coast of France his health improved. He was nervous, and his elder brothers took a pleasure in terrifying him by telling him ghost-stories, and by pretended apparitions. His gentle disposition often made him the victim of rougher boys, but he at length gained strength and address enough to stand his own ground. He only fought once, beat his antagonist, and then made a friend of him. Among his school-fellows were Mitchell, the translator of Aristophanes, and Thomas Barnes [q. Coleridge and Lamb quitted the school just before he entered it. On account of some hesitation in his speech, which was afterwards overcome, he was not sent to the university. While at school he wrote verses in imitation of Collins and Gray, whom he passionately admired. He revelled in the six-penny edition of English poets then published by John Cooke [q. After leaving school his time was chiefly spent in visiting his schoolfellows, haunting the bookstalls, reading whatever came in his way, and writing poetry. The paper soon became popular. It was thoroughly independent, and owed allegiance to no party, but advocated liberal politics with courage and consistency. Its main object was to assert the cause of reform in parliament, liberality of opinion in general, and to infuse in its readers a taste for literature. In Hunt married Miss Marianne Kent. Only four numbers of it appeared. Barnes, Charles Lamb, and other friends contributed to it. More than once the brothers were prosecuted by the government for political offences, but in each case were acquitted. An article on the savagery of military floggings led to a prosecution early in, when Brougham successfully defended the Hunts. Immediately after the acquittal Shelley first introduced himself to Hunt, by sending him from Oxford a sympahetic note of congratulation. At a political dinner in the assembled company significantly omitted the usual toast of the prince regent. They were subsequently informed that if a pledge were given by them to abstain in future from attacks on the regent it would insure them a remission of both the imprisonment and the fine. This was indignantly rejected, and the two brothers went to prison, John to Clerkenwell and Leigh to Surrey gaol. Leigh was then in delicate health. With his invincible cheerfulness he had the walls of his room papered with a trellis of roses, the ceiling painted with sky and clouds, the windows furnished with Venetian blinds, and an unfailing supply of flowers. He had the companionship of his books, busts, and a pianoforte. He was not debarred from the society of his wife and friends. Charles Lamb declared there was no other such room, except in a fairy tale. When Jeremy Bentham came to see him he found him playing at battledore. About the same time Charles Cowden Clarke introduced Keats to him, and Hunt was the means of bringing Keats and Shelley together for the first time ib. To both Hunt was a true friend, and both recorded their gratitude. Keats stayed with him at Hampstead shortly before leaving for Italy. It was dedicated to Lord Byron. The greater part of it was written during his imprisonment. It is conceived in the spirit of Chaucer and has in it lines worthy of Dryden. In conformity with the strictures of some of his critics he rewrote the poem some years later, but it is questionable whether he improved it. When he wrote it, he had not been in Italy, and afterwards he corrected some mistakes in the scenery, and restored its true historical conclusion. At this time Hunt became the object of the most bitter attacks on the part of many tory writers. Three more numbers of it appeared, viz. During the seventy-six weeks of its existence his papers on literature, life, manners, morals, and nature were all characterised by subtle and delicate criticisms, kindly

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cheerfulness, and sympathy with nature and art. In a proposal was made to Hunt by Shelley and Byron, who were then in Italy, to join them in the establishment of a quarterly liberal magazine, the profits to be divided between Hunt and Byron. After a tremendous storm the vessel was driven into Dartmouth, where they relanded and passed on to Plymouth. Here they remained for several months. Shelley sent Hunt l. In May, however, the Hunts sailed for Leghorn, where they arrived at length at the close of June. Shelley was drowned on 8 July, and Hunt was present at the burning of his body, and wrote the epitaph for his tomb in the protestant cemetery at Rome. Hunt had left Pisa with Byron in September for Genoa. In he removed to Florence, and remained there till his return to England two years later. Hunt left Italy in September, one of his reasons for returning to England being a litigation with his brother John. He himself afterwards regretted the imprudent act. It commenced on 4 Oct. Still he was never in better spirits or wrote such good theatrical criticisms. He was living at this period in London, successively at Old Brompton, St. In there was published by subscription in a handsome volume the first collected edition of his poems, with a preface of fifty-eight pages. The prejudices against him had to a great extent died away. Hunt settled in at 4 Cheyne Row, next door to Carlyle, where he remained till His health was at this time so feeble that he had for some time to be taken daily in a coach to the office. He then made the acquaintance of Laman Blanchard [q. The publisher afterwards issued these volumes in two parts, double columns, at a moderate price, and they were several times reprinted. Admirable in every way, it was, unhappily, too literary and refined for ordinary tastes, and ceased on 26 Dec. He succeeded William Johnson Fox [q. Its poetical qualities and brilliant dialogue secured for it a deserved success. During its first season it was witnessed two or three times by the queen. In a letter to the present writer, who had informed Hunt of its favourable reception in Manchester, he described with great satisfaction how highly the queen had praised it. In his poetical works, containing many pieces hitherto uncollected, were published in a neat pocket-volume. He was in perpetual difficulties. On more than one occasion he was literally without bread. He wrote to friends to get some of his books sold, so that he and his family may have something to eat. There were gaps of total destitution, in which every available source had been absolutely exhausted. Already on two occasions a royal grant of l. The characteristic paper which Carlyle drew up on the subject eulogised Hunt with admirable clearness and force. It includes a retrospect of the mythology, history, and biography of Sicily, and ancient legends and examples of pastoral poetry selected from Greece, Italy, and Britain, with illustrative criticisms, including a notice of Theocritus, with translated specimens. A new edition, edited by Roger Ingpen, appeared in The book is one of the most graceful and genial chronicles of its kind. He was in all public and private transactions the very soul of truth and honour. The book is full of historical and literary anecdotes. His wife died in , at the age of In an American edition of his poems appeared in 2 vols. For about two years he had been declining in health, but he still retained a keen interest in life. Early in August he went for a change of air to his old friend Charles Reynell at Putney, carrying with him his work and the books he needed, and there he quietly sank to rest on the 28th. His death was simply exhaustion. His latest words were in the shape of eager questions about the vicissitudes and growing hopes of Italy, in inquiries from the children and friends around him for news of those he loved, and messages to the absent who loved him. He had lived in his later years at Phillimore Terrace, whence he removed in to 7 Cornwall Road, Hammersmith, his last residence. He was buried in Kensal Green cemetery. Ten years later a bust, executed by Joseph Durham [q. A number of his letters, not included in these volumes, were published in by Mr. It was published simultaneously in London and Boston, U. This volume is entirely devoted to the history and literature of the sonnet, with specimens by English and American authors. An introductory letter of four pages, and an essay of ninety-one pages are prefixed. His son Thornton [q. Townshend Mayer, but none of it was of sufficient importance to warrant publication. Leigh Hunt takes high rank as an essayist and critic. The spirit of his writings is eminently cheerful and humanising. He is perhaps the best teacher in our literature of the contentment which flows from a recognition of everyday joys and blessings.

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