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THE MAGIC LANTERN

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WHAT wonders before us incessantly pass,
 Revealed by the power of this marvellous glass!
 There are shadows to please, to surprise, to
 delight,
 And some that the senseless and weak might
 affright.

But you each by your parents and friends have
 been told,
 That it is but a mimic display you behold;
 And as soon as a taper the darkness shall cheer,
 These forms of deception shall all disappear.

And thus, when you enter the world, you will
 view
 A crowd of bright phantoms apparently true,
 Gay Fashion will tempt you, and Flattery smile,
 And Pleasure will beckon, and Fancy beguile.

Then think on the magical glass of your youth,
 Try these beautiful shades by the touchstone of
 Truth;
 And the moment she shines with her calm sober
 ray,
 The cheating illusions will vanish away!

from *Rhymes, & Reason: or, Mirth & Morality for the Young: a selection of poetic pieces, chiefly humorous.*
 Clara Hall. London: Edward Lacey, n.d.

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David Robinson collection