



PHINEAS FLETCHER



**“NARRATIVE HISTORY” AMOUNTS TO FABULATION,
THE REAL STUFF BEING MERE CHRONOLOGY**



PHINEAS FLETCHER

THE YOUNGER

1582

April 8, Sunday (Old Style): [Phineas Fletcher](#), 1st child of [Giles Fletcher \(the Elder\)](#) and [Joan Sheafe Fletcher](#), was baptized at Cranbrook in Kent.

NOBODY COULD GUESS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT



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1600

➡ [Phineas Fletcher](#), a scholar from the Westminster School of Eton in Buckinghamshire, matriculated at [King's College of Cambridge University](#).



KING'S COLLEGE →

ST JOHN'S →

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[Samuel Purchas](#) graduated at [St John's College of Cambridge University](#) (later he would become a B.D.).



DO I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION? GOOD.

HDT

WHAT?

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1603

[Phineas Fletcher](#) was made a Fellow at [King's College of Cambridge University](#) (until 1616).

- 1563 Knives first made in England.
1569 Royal Exchange first built.
1572 The great massacre of Protestants at Paris.
1579 The Dutch shake off the Spanish yoke, and the republic of Holland begins.
English East India company incorporated; established 1600.
——— Turkey company incorporated.
1580 Sir Francis Drake returns from his voyage round the world, being the first English circumnavigator.
Parochial register first appointed in England.
1582 Pope Gregory introduces the New Style in Italy; the 5th of October being counted 15.
1583 Tobacco first brought from Virginia into England.
1587 Mary queen of Scots is beheaded by order of Elizabeth, after 18 years' imprisonment.
1588 The Spanish armada destroyed by Drake, and other English admirals.
Henry IV. passes the edict of Nantes, tolerating the protestants.
1589 Coaches first introduced into England; hackney act 1693; increased to 1000, in 1770.
1590 Band of pensioners instituted in England.
1591 Trinity college, Dublin, founded.
1597 Watches first brought into England from Germany.
1602 Decimal arithmetic invented at Bruges.
1603 Queen Elizabeth (the last of the Tudors) dies, and nominates James VI. of Scotland (and first of the Stuarts) as her successor; which unites both kingdoms under the name of Great Britain.
1605 The gunpowder plot discovered at Westminster; being a project of the Roman catholics to blow up the king and both houses of parliament.
1606 Oaths of allegiance first administered in England.
1608 Galileo, of Florence, first discovers the satellites about the planet Saturn, by the telescope then just invented in Holland.
1610 Henry IV. is murdered at Paris by Ravailiac, a priest.

CHANGE IS ETERNITY, STASIS A FIGMENT



PHINEAS FLETCHER

THE YOUNGER

1604

[Phineas Fletcher](#) received the B.A. Bachelor of Arts degree at [King's College of Cambridge University](#).



**LIFE IS LIVED FORWARD BUT UNDERSTOOD BACKWARD?
— NO, THAT'S GIVING TOO MUCH TO THE HISTORIAN'S STORIES.
LIFE ISN'T TO BE UNDERSTOOD EITHER FORWARD OR BACKWARD.**

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1608

Giles Fletcher the Younger became a Fellow at Trinity College of Cambridge University.



TRINITY COLLEGE →

Phineas Fletcher received the M.A. Master of Arts degree there. He would be Chaplain to Sir Henry Willoughby.

John Fletcher's tragicomedy THE FAITHFUL SHEPHERDESS, his adaptation of Giovanni Battista Guarini's IL PASTOR FIDO, was performed by the Children of the Blackfriars but was not well received. (Henry Thoreau



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would refer to this play in his journal, during Fall 1846.)



A tragicomedy is not so called in respect of mirth and killing, but in respect it wants [lacks] deaths, which is enough to make it no tragedy; yet brings some near it, which is enough to make it no comedy.

THE FUTURE IS MOST READILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT





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1620

[Phineas Fletcher](#) became a Representative for Hilgay in Norfolk.

In about this year, [John Fletcher](#)'s tragicomedy THE ISLAND PRINCESS.

There were some aristocratic proposals to encourage sport in London ("sport" being then a favorite euphemism for gaming and gambling) by the creation of a new amphitheater. The contests were to include not only wrestling, foot racing, and long-jumping, but also fencing. There would be great Puritan opposition and this plan would come to nothing.

[John Ford](#)'s prose essay published as a pamphlet, A LINE OF LIFE.

After this, Ford would specialize in dramatic writing, initially as a collaborator with more experienced playwrights –not only Thomas Dekker, but also John Webster and William Rowley– and then, by the later 1620s, on his own merits.

THE FUTURE CAN BE EASILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT





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1623

[Giles Fletcher the Younger](#) died at Alderton in Suffolk. His principal work bears the title CHRIST'S VICTORIE AND TRIUMPH, IN HEAVEN, IN EARTH, OVER AND AFTER DEATH and consists of four cantos. Its meter is an 8-line stanza in the style of Spenser; the first five lines rhyme **ababb**, and each stanza concludes with a rhyming triplet. The 1st canto "Christ's Victory in Heaven" argues the merits of justice vs. mercy on the basis of the Gospel account of Jesus's life; the 2d canto "Christ's Victory on Earth" provides an allegory based on the temptation in the desert; the 3d canto "Christ's Triumph over Death" handles the Passion narrative; and the 4th canto "Christ's Triumph after Death" deals with the Resurrection and Ascension in such a manner as to lead into a eulogy of his brother [Phineas Fletcher](#) — as Thyrsilis. [John Milton](#) would be borrowing liberally from this, for PARADISE REGAINED.



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1650


[Phineas Fletcher](#) died at Hilgay, near Downham Market in Norfolk.



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1810

 [Alexander Chalmers](#)'s THE WORKS OF THE ENGLISH POETS, FROM [CHAUCER](#) TO [COWPER](#); INCLUDING THE SERIES EDITED WITH PREFACES, BIOGRAPHICAL AND CRITICAL, BY DR. SAMUEL JOHNSON; AND THE MOST APPROVED TRANSLATIONS, a revised and expanded version of Dr. Johnson's 1779-1781 LIVES OF THE POETS, began to come across the London presses of C. Wittingham. It would amount to 21 volumes and the printing would require until 1814 to be complete. According to the Preface, this massive thingie was "a work professing to be a Body of the Standard English Poets"¹:

1. When the massive collection would come finally to be reviewed in July 1814, the reviewer would, on the basis of Chalmers's selection of poems and poets, broadly denounce this editor as incompetent.



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- PERUSE VOLUME I**
- PERUSE VOLUME III**
- PERUSE VOLUME IV**
- PERUSE VOLUME V**
- PERUSE VOLUME VI**
- PERUSE VOLUME VII**
- PERUSE VOLUME VIII**
- PERUSE VOLUME IX**
- PERUSE VOLUME X**
- PERUSE VOLUME XI**
- PERUSE VOLUME XII**
- PERUSE VOLUME XIII**
- PERUSE VOLUME XIV**
- PERUSE VOLUME XV**
- PERUSE VOLUME XVI**
- PERUSE VOLUME XVII**
- PERUSE VOLUME XVIII**
- PERUSE VOLUME XIX**
- PERUSE VOLUME XX**
- PERUSE VOLUME XXI**



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WALDEN: Breed's hut was standing only a dozen years ago, though it had long been unoccupied. It was about the size of mine. It was set on fire by mischievous boys, one Election night, if I do not mistake. I lived on the edge of the village then, and had just lost myself over Davenant's Gondibert, that winter that I labored with a lethargy, -which, by the way, I never knew whether to regard as a family complaint, having an uncle who goes to sleep shaving himself, and is obliged to sprout potatoes in a cellar Sundays, in order to keep awake and keep the Sabbath, or as the consequence of my attempt to read Chalmers' collection of English poetry without skipping. It fairly overcame my Nervii. I had just sunk my head on this when the bells rung fire, and in hot haste the engines rolled that way, led by a straggling troop of men and boys, and I among the foremost, for I had leaped the brook. We thought it was far south over the woods, -we who had run to fires before,- barn, shop, or dwelling-house, or all together. "It's Baker's barn," cried one. "It is the Codman Place," affirmed another. And then fresh sparks went up above the wood, as if the roof fell in, and we all shouted "Concord to the rescue!" Wagons shot past with furious speed and crushing loads, bearing, perchance, among the rest, the agent of the Insurance Company, who was bound to go however far; and ever and anon the engine bell tinkled behind, more slow and sure, and rearmost of all, as it was afterward whispered, came they who set the fire and gave the alarm. Thus we kept on like true idealists, rejecting the evidence of our senses, until at a turn in the road we heard crackling and actually felt the heat of the fire from over the wall, and realized, alas! that we were there. The very nearness of the fire but cooled our ardor. At first we thought to throw a frog-pond on to it; but concluded to let it burn, it was so far gone and so worthless. So we stood round our engine, jostled one another, expressed our sentiments through speaking trumpets, or in lower tone referred to the great conflagrations which the world has witness, including Bascom's shop, and, between ourselves we thought that, were we there in season with our "tub", and a full frog-pond by, we could turn that threatened last and universal one into another flood. We finally retreated without doing any mischief, -returned to sleep and Gondibert. But as for Gondibert, I would except that passage in the preface about wit being the soul's powder, -"but most of mankind are strangers to wit, as Indians are to powder."



FIRE

PEOPLE OF
WALDEN

INSURANCE

NARCOLEPSY

ALEXANDER CHALMERS

BASCOM & COLE



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THE ENGLISH POETS:

[Joseph Addison](#), Akenside; Armstrong; Beattie; [Francis Beaumont](#); Sir J. Beaumont; Blacklock; Blackmore; [Robert Blair](#); Boyse; Brome; Brooke; Broome; Sir [Thomas Browne](#); [Charles Butler](#); [George Gordon, Lord Byron](#); Cambridge; [Thomas Carew](#); Cartwright; Cawthorne; Chatterton; [Geoffrey Chaucer](#); Churchill; [William Collins](#); [William Congreve](#); Cooper; Corbett; [Charles Cotton](#); Dr. Cotton; [Abraham Cowley](#); [William Cowper](#); Crashaw; Cunningham; [Daniel](#); [William Davenant](#); Davies; [Sir John Denham](#); Dodsley; [John Donne](#); Dorset; [Michael Drayton](#); Sir [William Drummond](#); [John Dryden](#); Duke; Dyer; Falconer; Fawkes; Fenton; [Giles Fletcher](#); [John Fletcher](#); Garth; [Gascoigne](#); Gay; Glover; Goldsmith; [Gower](#); Grainger; [Thomas Gray](#); Green; [William Habington](#); Halifax; [William Hall](#); Hammond; Harte; Hughes; Jago; Jenyns; Dr. [Samuel Johnson](#); Jones; [Ben Jonson](#); King; Langhorne; Lansdowne; Lloyd; Logan; Lovibond; Lyttelton; Mallett; Mason; William Julias Mickle; [John Milton](#); [Thomas Moore](#); Otway; Parnell; A. Phillips; J. Phillips; Pitt; Pomfret; [Alexander Pope](#); Prior; Rochester; Roscommon; Rowe; Savage; Sir [Walter Scott](#); [William Shakespeare](#); Sheffield; Shenstone; Sherburne; [Skelton](#); Smart; Smith; Somerville; [Edmund Spenser](#); Sprat; Stepney; Stirling; Suckling; Surrey; [Jonathan Swift](#); [James Thomson](#); W. Thomson; Tickell; [Turberville](#); Waller; Walsh; Warner; J. Warton; T. Warton; Watts; West; P. Whitehead; W. Whitehead; Wilkie; Wyatt; Yalden; [Arthur Young](#).

TRANSLATIONS:

[Alexander Pope](#)'s Iliad & Odyssey; [John Dryden](#)'s Virgil & [Juvenal](#); Pitt's Aeneid & Vida; Francis' Horace; Rowe's Lucan; Grainger's [Albius Tibullus](#); Fawkes' Theocritus, Apollonius Rhodius, Coluthus, [Anacreon](#), Sappho, Bion and Moschus, Museus; Garth's Ovid; Lewis' Statius; Cooke's [Hesiod](#); Hoole's Ariosto & Tasso; William Julias Mickle's Lusiad.

COMMENTARY:

William Julias Mickle's "Inquiry into the Religion Tenets and Philosophy of the Bramins," which Thoreau encountered in 1841 in Volume 21 (pages 713-33).

WHAT I'M WRITING IS TRUE BUT NEVER MIND
YOU CAN ALWAYS LIE TO YOURSELF



PHINEAS FLETCHER

THE YOUNGER

1816



THE PURPLE ISLAND, A POEM: BY [PHINEAS FLETCHER](#). WITH THE CRITICAL REMARKS OF THE LATE HENRY HEADLEY, A.B. AND A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH BY WILLIAM JAQUES, TRANSLATOR OF FRANCK'S GUIDE TO THE STUDY OF THE SCRIPTURES. (London: Printed for Burton and Briggs, 156, Leadenhall Street; J. Hatchard, Bookseller to the Queen, 190, Piccadilly; and S. Hamilton, Paternoster Row).

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1836



SACRED POETRY OF THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY: INCLUDING THE WHOLE OF [GILES FLETCHER](#)'S CHRIST'S VICTORY AND TRIUMPH; WITH COPIOUS SELECTIONS FROM SPENSER. / [P. FLETCHER](#) / QUARLES / DAVIES / WITHER / HERBERT / SANDYS / BISHOP KING / MILTON. IN TWO VOLS. WITH AN INTRODUCTORY ESSAY AND CRITICAL REMARKS, BY THE REVEREND R. CATTERMOLE, B.D. (London: Printed and Published by Joseph Rickerby, Sherbourn Lane (King William Street).

SACRED POETRY, I

SACRED POETRY, II



PHINEAS FLETCHER

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1844

January 17, Wednesday: [Waldo Emerson](#) checked out from [Harvard Library](#), for [Henry Thoreau](#), the 6th volume of [Alexander Chalmers](#)'s 1810 anthology, THE WORKS OF THE ENGLISH POETS, FROM CHAUCER TO COWPER,² the volume that contains [William Browne](#)'s "Britannia's Pastorals" (1613) and "The Shepherd's Pipe" (1614), [Francis Beaumont](#)'s THE HONEST MAN'S FORTUNE, [Richard Crashaw](#)'s "Sospetto d'Herode," [Charles Cotton](#)'s "The World," "The Morning Quatrains," "Evening Quatrains," "The Tempest," "On the Death of the Most Noble Thomas Earl of Ossory," and "Contentment," the poetry of [Sir John Beaumont](#), [Sir William Davenant](#)'s preface to "Gondibert," the poetry of [Giles Fletcher](#) and [Phineas Fletcher](#), [William Habington](#)'s "To Roses in the Bosome of Castara," and [Sir John Birkenhead](#)'s "On the Happy Collection of Mr. FLETCHER'S Works, never before printed."

PERUSE VOLUME VI

JOHN BIRKENHEAD

WILLIAM BROWNE

CHARLES COTTON

RICHARD CRASHAW

WILLIAM DAVENANT

GILES FLETCHER

PHINEAS FLETCHER

WILLIAM HABINGTON

[Thoreau](#) would make notes on this reading in his Literary Notebook and Miscellaneous Extracts.³

2. THE WORKS OF THE ENGLISH POETS, FROM [CHAUCER](#) TO [COWPER](#); INCLUDING THE SERIES EDITED WITH PREFACES, BIOGRAPHICAL AND CRITICAL, BY [DR. SAMUEL JOHNSON](#): AND THE MOST APPROVED TRANSLATIONS. THE ADDITIONAL LIVES BY [ALEXANDER CHALMERS](#) IN TWENTY-ONE VOLUMES. London, 1810.

3. See page 320 of the William Browne text.



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PEOPLE OF
WALDEN

DAVENANT



PHINEAS FLETCHER

THE YOUNGER

A WEEK :

Gazed on the Heavens for what he missed on Earth.
— Britain's Pastorals.

PEOPLE OF
A WEEK

WILLIAM BROWNE

A WEEK :

Man is man's foe and destiny.
— COTTON.

PEOPLE OF
A WEEK

CHARLES COTTON

The World.

ODE.

I

Fy! What a wretched World is this?
Nothing but anguish, griefs, and fears,
Where, who does best, must do amiss,
Frailty the Ruling Power bears
In this our dismal Vale of Tears.

II

Oh! who would live, that could but dye,
Dye honestly, and as he shou'd,
Since to contend with misery
Will do the wisest Man no good,
Misfortune will not be withstood.

III

The most that helpless man can do
Towards the bett'ring his Estate
Is but to barter woe for woe,
And he ev'n there attempts too late,
So absolute a Prince is Fate.

IV

But why do I of Fate complain;
Man might live happy, if not free,
And Fortunes shocks with ease sustain,
If Man would let him happy be:
Man is Man's Foe, and Destiny.

V

And that Rib Woman, though she be
But such a little little part;
Is yet a greater Fate than he,



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And has the Power, or the Art
To break his Peace; nay break his Heart.

VI

Ah, glorious Flower, lovely piece
Of superfine refined Clay,
Thou poyson'st only with a Kiss,
And dartest an auspicious Ray
On him thou meanest to betray.

VII

These are the World, and these are they
That Life does so unpleasant make,
Whom to avoid there is no way
But the wild Desart straight to take,
And there to husband the last stake.

VIII

Fly to the empty Desarts then,
For so you leave the World behind,
There's no World where there are no Men,
And Brutes more civil are, and kind,
Than Man whose Reason Passions blind.

IX

For should you take an Hermitage,
Tho' you might scape from other wrongs,
Yet even there you bear the rage
Of venomous, and slanderous tongues,
Which to the Innocent belongs.

X

Grant me then, Heav'n, a wilderness,
And there an endless Solitude,
Where though Wolves howl, and Serpents hiss,
Though dang'rous, 'tis not half so rude
As the ungovern'd Multitude.

XI

And Solitude in a dark Cave,
Where all things husht, and silent be,
Resembleth so the quiet Grave,
That there I would prepare to flee,
With Death, that hourly waits for me.

“MAGISTERIAL HISTORY” IS FANTASIZING: HISTORY IS CHRONOLOGY



PHINEAS FLETCHER

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"It's all now you see. Yesterday won't be over until tomorrow and tomorrow began ten thousand years ago."

- Remark by character "Garin Stevens"
in William Faulkner's INTRUDER IN THE DUST



Prepared: October 23, 2014

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ARRGH AUTOMATED RESEARCH REPORT

GENERATION HOTLINE



This stuff presumably looks to you as if it were generated by a human. Such is not the case. Instead, someone has requested that we pull it out of the hat of a pirate who has grown out of the shoulder of our pet parrot "Laura" (as above). What these chronological lists are: they are research reports compiled by ARRGH algorithms out of a database of modules which we term the Kouroo Contexture (this is data mining). To respond to such a request for information we merely push a button.



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Commonly, the first output of the algorithm has obvious deficiencies and we need to go back into the modules stored in the contexture and do a minor amount of tweaking, and then we need to punch that button again and recompile the chronology – but there is nothing here that remotely resembles the ordinary “writerly” process you know and love. As the contents of this originating contexture improve, and as the programming improves, and as funding becomes available (to date no funding whatever has been needed in the creation of this facility, the entire operation being run out of pocket change) we expect a diminished need to do such tweaking and recompiling, and we fully expect to achieve a simulation of a generous and untiring robotic research librarian. Onward and upward in this brave new world.

First come first serve. There is no charge.
Place requests with <Kouroo@kouroo.info>. Arrgh.