

**1832**

**ODE FOR AN AGRICULTURAL CELEBRATION**

**William Cullen Bryant**

**Bryant, William Cullen (1794-1878) - American poet and editor of the New York Evening Post who practiced law before devoting his life to writing. A master of blank verse, Bryant's earliest works are considered his best. Ode for an Agricultural Celebration (1832) - Opening lines: Far back in the ages, / The plough with wreaths was crowned;...**

## ODE FOR AN AGRICULTURAL CELEBRATION

Far back in the ages,  
 The plough with wreaths was crowned;  
 The hands of kings and sages  
 Entwined the chaplet round;  
 Till men of spoil disdained the toil  
 By which the world was nourished,  
 And dews of blood enriched the soil
 

- Where green their laurels flourished.
- Now the world her fault repairs
- The guilt that stains her story;
- And weeps her crimes amid the cares
- That formed her earliest glory.

 The proud throne shall crumble,  
 The diadem shall wane,  
 The tribes of earth shall humble  
 The pride of those who reign;  
 And War shall lay his pomp away;  
 The fame that heroes cherish,  
 The glory earned in deadly fray  
 Shall fade, decay, and perish.  
 Honor waits, o'er all the earth,  
 Through endless generations,  
 The art that calls her harvest forth,  
 And feeds th' expectant nations.

**THE END**