1871-1872 Caspar Morris journal 1799

Caspar Morris
journal 1871-72

lordly mansion of Blenheim
arrayed themselves before us the
proud monument of England's
triumph in Continental wars,
into which she was drawn in
defiance of grand principles of
social and religious truth,—
and of the gratitude of the Nation
to One who exhibits in the
history of his life as much of
the meanness as of the greatness
of our fallen nature. Nothing
of it is reserved & sanctified
by grace Long honored at
home and dreaded abroad
the name of Marlborough is now
contemned as much as it was once
respected and Blenheim is as
great a monument of his meanness
in accepting it when he could not
but have felt conscious how
little he deserved it, as it is of
the nations gratitude for what it
supposed he self sacrificing toils
in its defence

Leaving Chester after breakfast we
dined late in the day in London—
The Rail Road, that great triumph
of modern power, and agent for future
progress carried us in a few hours
over a distance which thirty five years
ago why had traversed in as many
days. So numerous were the crossings
and junctions that it occurred to me
that the engineers of the preceding
day must think of the land as being
designed only as a bed for Rails, as
Brindley is asserted to have said
rivers were designed to feed Canals
The grades are very easy. The
rails solidly laid. The embankments
are sodded or often planted at the
top with beautiful flower borders
or beds of culinary vegetables