

The Light – and what it weighed to him

Paul Snyders Jan 2016

For JMW Turner

"Mister Turner," it was then said
"has lost the central plot
transcended all propriety
shewn very poor yellow taste
in these his latest, latter works"

And clear therein can still be read
manifold signs of feral envy
scandalized outrage that he
should persist in this defiance
to spite their fulsome condemnation

In truth, without staunch ally Ruskin
one wonders how such a time
might ever have beheld his vision
let far alone honoured one so
faithfully and heretically self-directed

But though fool critics felt themselves
princes magnanimous, scorned
after supporting him far past their own
ability to perceive and follow
his new purposes and sympathy

Mere infamy was never reason enough
nor force, to impede the work
the impetus which cares not for fame, logic
or the decency of it's own discoveries
but only their radiant truth