

“On Fancy’s wings, ambitious of the skies,
Behold a modern Icarus arise:
But far less bold than that Cretan youth of yore, to solar heights he ventures
not to soar, content, forsooth, if he should reach withal
This lofty ceiling of your noble Hall,
Or perch himself midway upon the wall.”
Then the speaker describes the other portraits and sends everyone up rotten,
and concludes,
“Here may philanthropy her scepter sway,
and aid the advent of the promised day
When man no more his brother-man assails,
But universal peace on earth prevails
Enough! Bet yet, e’re Fancy’s curtain fall
Accept one parting word – God Bless You All!”

POSTSCRIPT

On 25th September 2015 the sleeping beauty which is the St Georges Hall behind the Duchess Pub in Colchester’s High Street awoke to the sound of violins and cellos, the first public performance in 117 years. After tons of rubbish were cleared, broken glass carefully removed, staircases strengthened and floors scrubbed to within an inch of their life, 140 or so people gathered to hear world class musicians filling this wonderful hall with an amazing sound as part of the Roman River Festival. There will be a couple more performances this season, then it has to go back to sleep for a while while ways and means are found to restore it enough to open it properly.

Second foot note The Obelisk and Firstsite Gardens (East Hill House Garden.)