Vixerunt

Being realistic is still what counts Yet all our life is one eternal longing For what? The beauty of this day is not surpassed The love we feel, the passions now admonished Fall into place- we keep our sanity What more can man's humanity fulfil? Still the ever yearning beauty leads him on That flower, the cut of grass, the greatness of an oak A field of hay, the fretting butterfly The dedicated bumble bee now dead Upon the gravel path whose tread Reached all this loveliness And Keats in all that he has given us, What we require is mercy at the end And visions of a landscape fading out For if we did not rise up fully when we could We hand it on to those who manifestly would.