

NEW MARGINALIA: July 2018

Insert under Recent Discoveries.

**Previously unrecorded marginalia to an unidentified work.**

**Acknowledgments:** Description and one image of an annotated page in the catalogue of an auction sale held at Sotheby's (London) on July 9, 2018, Lot 449.

<http://www.sothebys.com/en/auctions/ecatalogue/2018/english-literature-sale-118404/lot.449.html>

**Edition:** The work in question cited Goethe, if it was not actually a work by Goethe. (According to the catalogue, there is a later note in another hand on the verso of this "blue paper wrapper" describing C's comment as applied to "a passage in Goëthe's works.") The page on which Coleridge's note is written was almost certainly the paper cover of the book, removed for binding or torn off for its autograph value. Sothebys' cataloguers correctly point out a parallel passage in *C&S* (CC) 122, where Coleridge, in a similar context, uses the same words about Cain; no exact source has been located for the image of the grass turning black beneath his feet. A transcription, from the photograph, follows.

P. 179-191.

The same arguments, tho' with less elegance, have been adduced by many, among others by [? Christian Ehr . . . ]--But we have a homely proverb, "The proof of the Pudding is in the Eating." In answer to Goëthe I appeal to the Heads, Hearts, and Lives, of the inhabitants of Italy, Sicily, &c compared with those of Scotland, England, Holland, Sweden, & (till Infidelity became epidemic) of Protestant Germany. What is the Rabbins' fable of Cain, may be truly applied to Popery--"the very grass turns black beneath it's Tread." S. T. Coleridge--Marriage is a sacrament in Catholic Countries--a religious Contract in Protestant ones. In which is the marriage vow best kept?