

The Nobel Pilgrimage

Alfred Bernhard Nobel (1833 - 1896)

Unprepossessing, gawky, unmarked birth
Were in his clay compounded. Slack he'd been
To learn at school; a lad of no great worth;
But sad, long looks and vacant, pallid mien
Hid no base, subtle cravings in his smile.
Yet though uncurious his form to know,
His languid, distant poise betrayed no guile.
Young Nobel was his name, and worthy so;
Though oft his parents did him roughly chide
For feelings of unpatronymic shame,
And urged him take true, welcome, fervent pride -
Who could not languish with more modest name.

The noble deeds he willed through death were vast:
To dynamite achievements by his blast.

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With chemistry life first began,
From primeval soup to man,
 With smooth evolving thread.
Each succeeding generation
Through new specialisation,
 Its common source will shed.

(c) John Marr

References

Nobel

Evans, I.O. (1969) Benefactors of the World

(p.54) Awards for Eminence - life of Alfred Bernhard Nobel.