chasten

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(verb) CHAY-sen

Discipline, punish, purify, moderate, temper, subdue, restrain.

For I have learned
To look on nature, not as in the hour
Of thoughtless youth; but hearing oftentimes
The still, sad music of humanity,
Nor harsh nor grating, though of ample power
To chasten and subdue. And I have felt
A presence that disturbs me with joy
Of elevated thoughts; a sense sublime
Of something far more deeply interfused ...
... A motion and a spirit, that impels
All thinking things, all objects of all thought
And rolls through all things.

William Wordsworth, *Tintern Abbey*.

From the moment it begins its life, as various integrants of wood, cloth, metal
and (sigh) plastic ivory-substitute cohere under myriad hands, until the first
outside player plinks a freshly polished key and listens to the sweet response, the
piano is a product of the human body, designed to return to the body as music,
with ample power to chasten and subdue.

reviewing James Barron's *The Making of a Steinway Concert Grand*.

So affected was he by the excesses and idiocies of the world of journalism, to
which he belonged, that the effect was to stimulate the production of a series of
scathing "definitions" which still have the power to chasten while causing us to
smile.

reviewing Ambrose Bierce's *The Enlarged Devil's Dictionary*.