Ada Unseen

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wave function

the difficulty of measuring a wave function

. at two specific points separated by time .

which changes continuously and causally

discontinuously and erratically

as a result of observation

is the collapse of the wave function
wave writing

when
waves
reclaim

shutter  shingle
    ridge

grey smooth stones
    white lichen

white paint
    swastika
    on grey smooth stone
    kick down

    how long & when
    waves  turn  roll
    suck

    surf swallow
    sink holes
    grey     splu     sur

..............................

...............  

your hand pulling me
across the breach

tidal fast flow
    slipping submerged stones

new salt marsh residents
    white egrets
    surprised

the breach did not defeat us

Porlock Bay  Nov 17
Will o’ the Wisp: eight equations

I

These Functional Equations are Will-o’-the-Wisps the moment I fancy I have really at last got hold of something tangible & substantial it all recedes further and further & vanishes again into thin air

A.A.L.

II

Prompted by your beauty & intangibility you always elude my grasp you seem to delight in leading me into a bog you are will o’ the wisp flickering with wayward course and pleased when those who follow are bogged to the neck

Dr JK to A.A.L.

III

Lead then, said Eve The wily adder rolled in tangles Makes intricate seem straight Elevates his crest A wandering fire compact of unctuous vapour Misleads the amazed night-wanderer to bogs and mires

J.M.

IV

God amputates his small right hand ignis fatuus no illume at all

E.D.

V

A functional equation specifies a function in implicit form Solve through substitution with some constants (eg. 0 or 1) after that some expressions which will make some part of the equation become constant
VI

the moment I fancy I have really
got hold of
two or more known constants:
marsh gas (0) fireball (1)
it advances as you advance recedes as you recede

VII

I have often seen it there rising up
and falling twistering about
rising up again a candle in a lantern

Mrs Lubbock

VIII

Joan (0) the Wad (1)

Note: Will o’ the Wisp, or ignis fatuus, was a common sight before the draining of the fens and marshes in England. By the time Ada Lovelace used it to describe her difficulties with functional equations they were much rarer. JK is Dr James Kay, who wrote flirtatious letters to Ada, then hastily got married; JM is John Milton’s Paradise Lost; ED—a reworking of Emily Dickinson’s ‘Those—dying then’. Mrs Lubbock was remembering incidents from before 1810 in Norfolk. ‘Joan the Wad’ is a Somerset name for Will o’ the Wisp. Scientists have attempted to recreate the right conditions for the spontaneous ignition of marsh gas.