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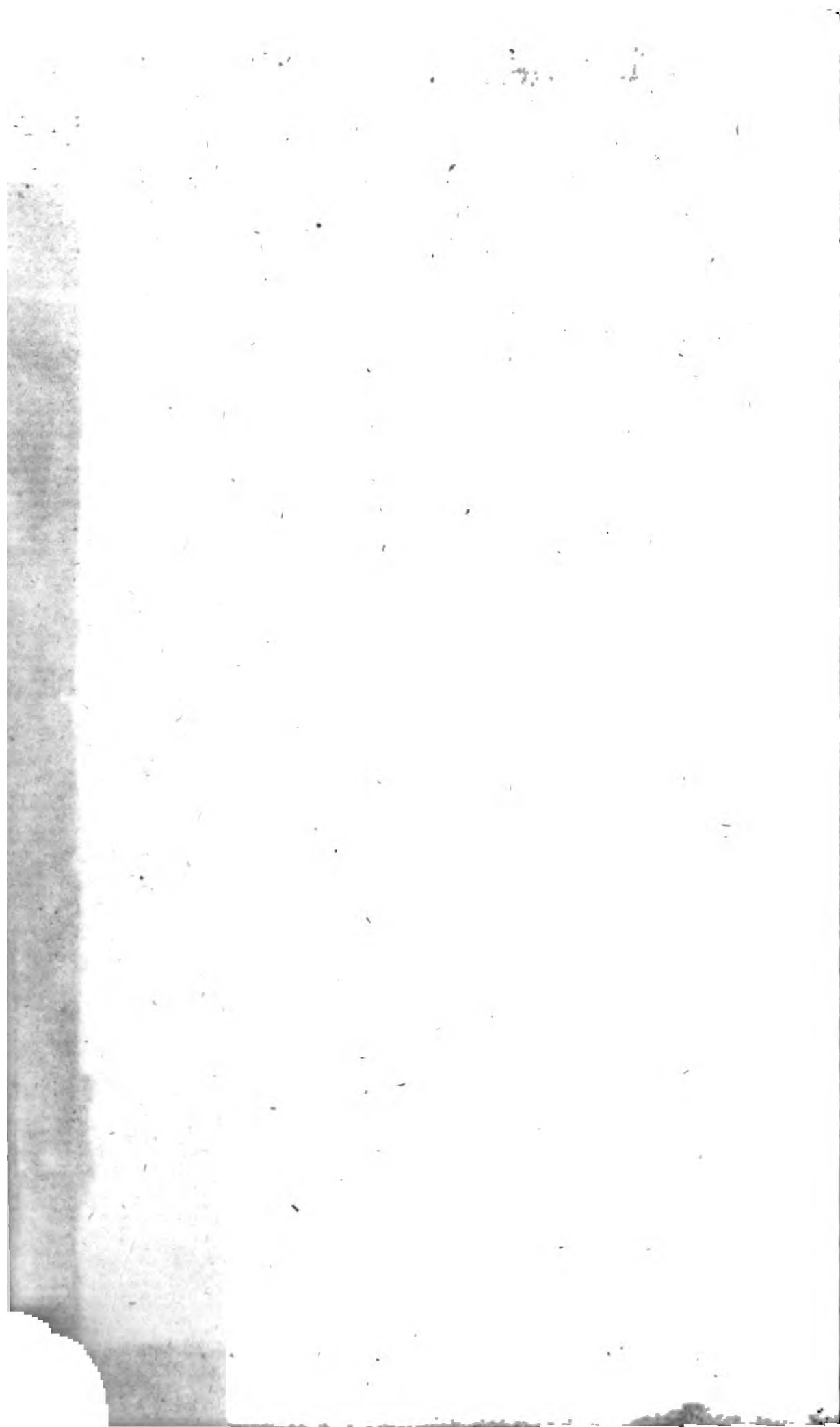
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T H E
P O E T I C A L W O R K S
O F
O L I V E R G O L D S M I T H , M . B .
V O L U M E T H E F I R S T .





Oliver Goldsmith M.B.

Published According to Act of Parliament. Jan. 5. 1780. by T. Evans, Strand. *Cook. del. et fecit.*

T H E
P O E T I C A L
A N D
D R A M A T I C W O R K S
O F
O L I V E R G O L D S M I T H , M . B .

N O W F I R S T C O L L E C T E D .

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T . E V A N S I N T H E S T R A N D .

M D C C L X X X .



T O

S I R J O S H U A R E Y N O L D S .

S I R,

I AM happy in having your permission to inscribe to you this complete edition of the truly poetical works of your late ingenious friend OLIVER GOLDSMITH. They will prove a lasting monument of HIS GENIUS.

Every lover of science must deeply lament that this excellent writer, after long struggling with adversity, finished his mortal career just as his reputation was firmly established, and he had acquired the friendship of SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS, DR. JOHNSON, MR. EDMUND BURKE, the DEAN OF DERRY, MR. BEAUCLERC, and MR. CUMBERLAND, names which ADORN our age and nation.

It is, Sir, being merely an *eccho* of the PUBLIC VOICE to celebrate *your* admirable productions,

“ In which to latest times the artist lives.”

Had

Had Dr. Goldsmith understood the art of painting, of which he modestly declares himself ignorant, his pen would have done justice to the merits of your pencil—he chose a nobler theme, by declaring his ardent affection for the *virtues of your heart*.

That you may long continue, Sir, the ornament of your country, and the delight of your friends, is the sincere wish of,

Your most obliged,

Humble servant,

Strand, Jan. 1,
1780.

T. E V A N S.

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M E M O I R S

O F T H E

L I F E A N D W R I T I N G S

O F

OLIVER GOLDSMITH, M.B.*

“THE life of a scholar,” Dr. Goldsmith has remarked, “feldom abounds with adventure; his fame is acquired in

* In the Memoirs, which were published in London, soon after the death of Dr. Goldsmith, were several mistakes, with respect to our author's age, the time of his admission into the college of Dublin, &c. which are here corrected from accurate information.

“solitude, and the historian who only
 “views him at a distance, must be con-
 “tent with a dry detail of actions by
 “which he is scarce distinguished from
 “the rest of mankind: but we are
 “fond of talking of those who have given
 “us pleasure, not that we have any thing
 “important to say, but because the sub-
 “ject is pleasing.”

Oliver Goldsmith, son of the reverend Charles Goldsmith, was born at Elphin, in the county of Roscommon in Ireland, in the year 1729. His father had four sons, of whom Oliver was the third. After being well instructed in the classics, at the school of Mr. Hughes, he was admitted a sizer in Trinity-college, Dublin, on the 11th of June, 1744. While he resided there, he exhibited no specimens of that genius, which, in his maturer years,

years, raised his character so high. On the 27th of February, 1749, O. S. (two years after the regular time) he obtained the degree of Batchelor of Arts. Soon after, he turned his thoughts to the profession of physic; and, after attending some courses of anatomy in Dublin, proceeded to Edinburgh, in the year 1751, where he studied the several branches of medicine under the different professors in that university. His beneficent disposition soon involved him in unexpected difficulties; and he was obliged precipitately to leave Scotland, in consequence of having engaged himself to pay a considerable sum of money for a fellow-student.

A few days after, about the beginning of the year 1754, he arrived at Sunderland, near Newcastle, where he was ar-

arrested at the suit of one Barclay, a taylor in Edinburgh, to whom he had given security for his friend. By the friendship of Mr. Laughlin Maclane and Dr. Sleigh, who were then in the college, he was soon delivered out of the hands of the bailiff, and took his passage on board a Dutch ship to Rotterdam, where, after a short stay, he proceeded to Bruffels. He then visited great part of Flanders; and, after passing some time at Strasbourg and Louvain, where he obtained a degree of Bachelor in physic, he accompanied an English gentleman to Geneva.

It is undoubtedly a fact, that this ingenious, unfortunate man, made most part of his tour on foot.* He had left England

* “ Countries wear different appearances to travellers of different circumstances. A man who is whirled

land with very little money; and, being of a philosophical turn, and at that time possessing a body capable of sustaining every fatigue, and a heart not easily terrified by danger, he became an enthusiast to the design he had formed of seeing the manners of different countries. He had some knowledge of the French language, and of music; he played tolerable well on the German flute; which, from an amusement, became at some times the means of subsistence. His learning produced him an hospitable reception at most of the religious houses that he visited; and his music made him welcome to the peasants of Flanders and Germany.

whirled through Europe in a post-chaise, and the pilgrim who walks the grand tour on foot, will form very different conclusions. *Haud inexpertus loquor.*"

Goldsmith's *Present State of Learning in Europe*, 1758.

“ When-

“ Whenever I approached a peasant’s
“ house towards night-fall,” he used to
say, “ I played one of my most merry
“ tunes, and that generally procured me
“ not only a lodging, but subsistence for
“ the next day: but, IN TRUTH” (his
constant expression) “ I must own, when-
“ ever I attempted to entertain persons of
“ a higher rank, they always thought my
“ performance odious, and never made
“ me any return for my endeavours to
“ please them.”

On his arrival at Geneva, he was recommended as a proper person for a travelling tutor to a young man, who had been unexpectedly left a considerable sum of money by his uncle Mr. S*****. This youth, who was articled to an attorney, on receipt of his fortune determined to see the world; and, on his engaging
with

with his preceptor, made a proviso, that he should be permitted to govern himself: and our traveller soon found his pupil understood the art of directing in money concerns extremely well, as avarice was his prevailing passion.

During Goldsmith's continuance in Switzerland, he assiduously cultivated his poetical talent, of which he had given some striking proofs at the college of Edinburgh. It was from hence he sent the first sketch of his delightful epistle, called the TRAVELLER, to his brother Henry, a clergyman in Ireland, who, giving up fame and fortune, had retired with an amiable wife to happiness and obscurity, on an income of only forty pounds a year. The great affection Goldsmith bore for this brother, is thus expressed in

the poem abovementioned, and gives a striking picture of his situation.

Remote, unfriended, melancholy, slow,
Or by the lazy Scheld, or wandering Po ;
Or onward, where the rude Carinthian boor,
Against the houseless stranger shuts the door ;
Or where Campania's plain forsaken lies,
A weary waste expanding to the skies ;
Where'er I roam, whatever realms to see,
My heart untravel'd fondly turns to thee :
Still to my brother turns, with ceaseless pain,
And drags at each remove a length'ning chain :
Eternal blessings crown my earliest friend,
And round his dwelling guardian fairs attend ;
Blest be that spot, where chearful guests retire,
To pause from toil, and trim their evening fire ;
Blest that abode, where want and pain repair,
And every stranger finds a ready chair ;
Blest be those feasts with simple plenty crown'd,
Where all the ruddy family around,
Laugh at the jests or pranks that never fail,
Or sigh with pity at some mournful tale ;

Or

Or press the bashful stranger to his food,
And learn the luxury of doing good.

From Geneva Mr. Goldsmith and his pupil proceeded to the south of France, where the young man, upon some disagreement with his preceptor, paid him the small part of his salary which was due, and embarked at Marseilles for England. Our wanderer was left once more upon the world at large, and passed through a number of difficulties in traversing the greatest part of France. At length his curiosity being gratified, he bent his course towards England, and arrived at Dover, the beginning of the winter, in the year 1758.

His finances were so low on his return to England, that he with difficulty got to the metropolis, his whole stock of cash
amount-

amounting to no more than a few half-pence ! An entire stranger in London, his mind was filled with the most gloomy reflections in consequence of his embarrassed situation ! He applied to several apothecaries in hopes of being received in the capacity of a journeyman, but his broad Irish accent, and the uncouthness of his appearance, occasioned him to meet with insult from most of the medicinal tribe. The next day, however, a chymist near Fish-street, struck with his forlorn condition, and the simplicity of his manner, took him into his laboratory, where he continued till he discovered that his old friend Dr. Sleight was in London. That gentleman received him with the warmest affection, and liberally invited him to share his purse till some establishment could be procured for him. Goldsmith,

smith, unwilling to be a burden to his friend, a short time after eagerly embraced an offer which was made him to assist the late Rev. Dr. Milner, in instructing the young gentlemen at the academy at Peckham; and acquitted himself greatly to the Doctor's satisfaction for a short time; but, having obtained some reputation by the criticisms he had written in the Monthly Review, Mr. Griffith, the principal proprietor, engaged him in the compilation of it; and, resolving to pursue the profession of writing, he returned to London, as the mart where abilities of every kind were sure of meeting distinction and reward. Here he determined to adopt a plan of the strictest œconomy, and, at the close of the year 1759, took lodgings in Green-Arbour-court in the Old Bailey, where he wrote several ingenious pieces. The late Mr. Newbery, who,

who, at that time gave great encouragement to men of literary abilities, became a kind of patron to our young author, and introduced him as one of the writers in the Public Ledger, * in which his *Citizen of the World* originally appeared, under the the title of “ Chinese Letters.”

Fortune now seemed to take some notice of a man she had long neglected.

* During this time, (according to another account) he wrote for the British Magazine, of which Dr. Smollet was then editor, most of those *Essays* and *Tales*, which he afterwards collected and published in a separate volume. He also wrote occasionally, for the Critical Review; and it was the merit which he discovered in criticising a despicable translation of Ovid’s *Fasti* by a pedantic schoolmaster, and his *Enquiry into the Present State of Learning in Europe*, which first introduced him to the acquaintance of Dr. Smollet, who recommended him to several literati, and to most of the booksellers by whom he was afterwards patronized.

The

The simplicity of his character, the integrity of his heart, and the merit of his productions, made his company very acceptable to a number of respectable persons; and, about the middle of the year 1762, he emerged from his mean apartments near the Old Bailey to the politer air of the Temple, where he took handsome chambers, and lived in a genteel style. Among many other persons of distinction who were desirous to know him, was the Duke of Northumberland, and the circumstance that attended his introduction to that nobleman, is worthy of being related, in order to shew a striking trait of his character. “I was invited,” said the Doctor, “by my friend Percy, to wait upon the Duke, in consequence of the satisfaction he had received from the perusal of one of my productions. I dressed myself in the best manner I could,

“ could, and after studying some compli-
“ ments I thought necessary on such an
“ occasion, proceeded on to Northum-
“ berland-house, and acquainted the ser-
“ vants that I had particular business with
“ his grace. They shewed me into an
“ antichamber, where, after waiting some
“ time, a gentleman very elegantly dressed
“ made his appearance: taking him
“ for the Duke, I delivered all the fine
“ things I had composed, in order to com-
“ pliment him on the honour he had done
“ me; when, to my great astonishment,
“ he told me I had mistaken him for his
“ master, who would see me immediately.
“ At that instant the Duke came into the
“ apartment, and I was so confounded on
“ the occasion, that I wanted words barely
“ sufficient to express the sense I entertain-
“ ed of the Duke’s politeness, and went
“ away

“ away exceedingly chagrined at the blunder I had committed.”

The Doctor at the time of this visit was much embarrassed in his circumstances, but vain of the honour done him, was continually mentioning it. One of those ingenious executors of the law, a bailiff, who had a writ against him, determined to turn this circumstance to his own advantage; he wrote him a letter, that he was steward to a nobleman who was charmed with reading his last production, and had ordered him to desire the Doctor to appoint a place where he might have the honour of meeting him, to conduct him to his Lordship. The vanity of poor Goldsmith immediately swallowed the bait; he appointed the British Coffee-house, to which he was accompanied by his friend Mr. Hamilton, the printer of the Critical Review,

view, who in vain remonstrated on the singularity of the application. On entering the coffee-room the bailiff paid his respects to the Doctor, and desired that he might have the honour of immediately attending him. They had scarce entered Pall-mall, in their way *to his Lordship*, when the bailiff produced his writ. Mr. Hamilton generously paid the money, and redeemed the Doctor from captivity.

The publication of his *Traveller*, his *Vicar of Wakefield*, and his *History of England*, was followed by the performance of his comedy of *The Good-natur'd Man* at Covent Garden theatre, and placed him in the first rank of the poets of the present age.

Our Doctor, as he was now universally called, had a constant levee of his distressed
coun-

countrymen, whose wants, as far as he was able, he always relieved ; and he has often been known to leave himself even without a guinea, in order to supply the necessities of others.

Another feature in his character we cannot help laying before the reader. Previous to the publication of his *Deserted Village*, the bookseller had given him a note for one hundred guineas for the copy, which the Doctor mentioned, a few hours after, to one of his friends, who observed it was a very great sum for so short a performance, "In truth," replied Goldsmith, "I think so too ; it is much more than the honest man can afford, or the piece is worth ; I have not been easy since I received it ; I will therefore go back and return him his note:" which he actually did, and left it entirely

to the bookseller to pay him according to the profits produced by the sale of the poem, which turned out very considerable.

The author addresses this poem to his friend Sir Joshua Reynolds. He writes in the character of a native of a country village, to which he gives the name of Auburn, and which he pathetically addresses. He then proceeds to contrast the innocence and happiness of a simple and a natural state with the miseries and vices that have been introduced by polished life, and gives the following beautiful apostrophe to retirement.

“ O blest retirement, friend to life’s decline,
Retreats from care that never must be mine ;
How blest is he who crowns, in shades like these,
A youth of labour with an age of ease ;

Who

Who quits a world where strong temptations try,
And since 'tis hard to combat learns to fly.
For him no wretches, born to work and weep,
Explore the mine, or tempt the dangerous deep ;
No surly porter stands in guilty state,
To spurn imploring famine from his gate ;
But on he moves to meet his latter end,
Angels around befriending virtue's friend ;
Sinks to the grave with unperceiv'd decay,
While resignation gently slopes the way ;
And all his prospects brightning to the last,
His heaven commences ere the world be past !”

The description of the parish priest (probably intended for a character of his brother Henry) would have done honour to any poet of any age. In this description the simile of the bird teaching her young to fly, and of the mountain that rises above the storm, are not easily to be paralleled. The rest of the poem consists of the character of the village school-

b 2 master,

master, and a description of the village alehouse, both drawn with admirable propriety and force; a descant on the mischiefs of luxury and wealth; the variety of artificial pleasures; the miseries of those who for want of employment at home, are driven to settle new colonies abroad, and concludes with the following beautiful apostrophe to poetry.

“ And thou sweet poetry, thou loveliest maid,
Still first to fly where sensual joys invade;
Unfit in these degenerate times of shame,
To catch the heart, or strike for honest fame;
Dear charming nymph, neglected and decried,
My shame in crowds my solitary pride;
Thou source of all my bliss, and all my woe,
That found me poor at first, and keep'st me so;
Thou guide by which the nobler arts excel,
Thou nurse of every virtue, fare thee well.”

The

The Doctor did not reap a profit from his poetical labours equal to those of his prose. The Earl of Lisburne, whose classical taste is well known, one day at a dinner of the Royal Academicians, lamented to the Doctor his neglecting the muses, and enquired of him why he forsook poetry, in which he was sure of charming his readers, to compile histories, and write novels? The Doctor replied, “ My Lord, by courting the muses I shall
 “ starve, but by my other labours, I eat,
 “ drink, have good cloaths, and enjoy
 “ the luxuries of life.”

During the last Rehearsal of his comedy, intituled, *She Stoops to Conquer*, which Mr. Colman thought would not succeed, on the Doctor's objecting to the repetition of one of Tony Lumpkin's speeches, being apprehensive it might injure the play, the manager, with great keenness

replied, “ Psha, my dear Doctor, do not
 “ be fearful of *squibs*, when we have been
 “ sitting almost these two hours upon a
 “ *barrel of gunpowder.*” The piece, how-
 ever, contrary to Mr. Colman’s expecta-
 tion, was received with uncommon ap-
 plause by the audience; and Goldsmith’s
 pride was so hurt by the severity of the
 above observation, that it entirely put an
 end to his friendship for the gentleman
 who made it.

The success of the comedy of *She Stoops
 to Conquer* produced a most illiberal perso-
 nal attack on the author in one of the
 public prints* :—that it was highly invi-
 dious

* TO DR. GOLDSMITH.

Vous vous noyez par vanité.

S I R,

T H E happy knack which you have learnt of
 puffing your own compositions, provokes me to come
 forth. You have not been the editor of news-papers
 and

dious any person will allow, when he reads
The Traveller, called a *fimsy* poem, and

b 4 the

and magazines, not to discover the trick of literary
bumbug. But the gauze is so thin, that the very
foolish part of the world see through it, and discover
the Doctor's monkey face and cloven foot. Your
poetic vanity, is as unpardonable as your personal;
would man believe it, and will woman bear it, to
be told, that for hours the great Goldsmith will
stand surveying his grotesque Oranhotan's figure in
a pier glass? Was but the lovely H——k as much
enamoured, you would not sigh, my gentle swain,
in vain. But your vanity is preposterous. How
will this same bard of Bedlam ring the changes in
praise of Goldy! But what has he to be either proud
or vain of? The *Traveller* is a flimsy poem, built
upon false principles; principles diametrically oppo-
site to liberty. What is the *Good-natur'd Man*, but
a poor, water-gruel, dramatic dose? What is the
Deserted Village, but a *pretty* poem, of easy num-
bers, without fancy, dignity, genius, or fire? And
pray what may be the last *speaking pantomime*, so
praised by the Doctor himself, but an incoherent
piece

The Deserted Village, said to be without
fancy, dignity, genius, or fire. Enraged at
this

piece of stuff, the figure of a woman, with a fish's tail, without plot, incident, or intrigue? We are made to laugh at stale, dull jokes, wherein we mistake pleasantry for wit, and grimace for humour; wherein every scene is unnatural, and inconsistent with the rules, the laws of nature and of drama, viz. Two gentlemen come to a man of fortune's house, eat, drink, sleep, &c. and take it for an inn. The one is intended as a lover to the daughter; he talks with her for some hours, and when he sees her again in a different dress, he treats her as a bar girl, and swears she squinted. He abuses the master of the house, and threatens to kick him out of his own doors. The squire, whom we are told is to be a fool, proves to be the most sensible being of the piece; and he makes out a whole act, by bidding his mother lie close behind a bush, persuading her, that his father, her own husband, is a highwayman, and that he is come to cut their throats; and to give his cousin an opportunity to go off, he drives his mother over hedges, ditches, and through ponds.
There

this abusive publication, Dr. Goldsmith repaired to the house of the publisher, and after remonstrating on the *malignity* of this attack on his character, began to apply

There is not, sweet fucking Johnson, a natural stroke in the whole play, but the young fellow's giving the stolen jewels to the mother, supposing her to be the landlady. That Mr. Colman did no justice to this piece, I honestly allow; that he told all his friends it would be damned, I positively aver; and from such ungenerous insinuations, without a dramatic merit, it rose to public notice: and it is now the *ton* to go to see it; though I never saw a person that either liked it or approved it, any more than the absurd plot of *the Home's* tragedy of *Alonzo*. Mr. Goldsmith, correct your arrogance! reduce your vanity; and endeavour to believe, as a man, you are of the plainest fort; and as an author, but a mortal piece of mediocrity.

*Brise le miroir infidele
Qui vous cache la vérité.*

TOM TICKLE,

ply his cane to the shoulders of the *publisher*, who making a powerful resistance, from being the *defensive* soon became the *offensive* combatant. Dr. Kenrick, who was sitting in a private room of the publisher's, hearing a noise in the shop, came in, put an end to the fight, and conveyed the Doctor to a coach.* The papers instantly

* Dr. Kenrick was said to be the author of the attack, a writer of abilities, but who from disappointment and unhappiness of temper, seems to have lived *despising and despised* by all his contemporary writers, and whose *base, illiberal, and unmanly* attack on the late Mr. David Garrick, merited that indignation and disdain of its author, which every person shewed on that occasion. Mr. Garrick sent him a challenge, which he refused. He then commenced a prosecution against him, but some persons interfering, and pleading for his family, Mr. Garrick with too great lenity dropt the law suit. Dr. Kenrick took shame to himself, asked pardon of Mr. Garrick in a public news paper, and——abused him again.

The

ly teemed with fresh abuse on the impropriety of the Doctor's attempting to beat a person in his own house, on which in the Daily Advertiser of Wednesday, March 31, 1773, he inserted the following address :

“ To the P U B L I C.

“ L E S T it should be supposed that I
 “ have been willing to correct in others
 “ an abuse of which I have been guilty
 “ myself, I beg leave to declare, that in
 “ all my life I never wrote, or dictated,
 “ a single paragraph, letter, or essay, in
 “ a news-paper, except a few moral essays,

The writer of this note asked Dr. Kenrick how he could bring so *infamous* a charge against Mr. Garrick, he replied, “ he did *not* believe him guilty, “ but he did it *to plague the fellow.*” I desire to add, I never more conversed with such a man.

“ under

“ under the character of a Chinese, about
“ ten years ago, in the Ledger; and a
“ letter, to which I signed my name, in
“ the St. James’s Chronicle. If the li-
“ berty of the press therefore has been
“ abused, I have had no hand in it.

“ I have always considered the press as
“ the protector of our freedom, as a watch-
“ ful guardian, capable of uniting the
“ weak against the encroachments of
“ power. What concerns the public
“ most properly admits of a public dis-
“ cussion. But of late, the press has
“ turned from defending public interest,
“ to making inroads upon private life:
“ from combating the strong, to over-
“ whelming the feeble. No condition is
“ now too obscure for its abuse, and the
“ protector is become the tyrant of the
“ people. In this manner the freedom
of

“ of the press is beginning to sow the
 “ seeds of its own dissolution; the great
 “ must oppose it from principle, and the
 “ weak from fear; till at last every rank
 “ of mankind shall be found to give up
 “ its benefits, content with security from
 “ its insults.

“ How to put a stop to this licenti-
 “ ousness, by which all are indiscrimi-
 “ nately abused, and by which vice con-
 “ sequently escapes in the general censure,
 “ I am unable to tell; all I could wish
 “ is, that, as the law gives us no protec-
 “ tion against the injury, so it should
 “ give calumniators no shelter after
 “ having provoked correction. The in-
 “ sults which we receive before the pub-
 “ lic, by being more open are the more
 “ distressing; by treating them with silent
 “ contempt, we do not pay a sufficient
 “ defe-

“ deference to the opinion of the world.
“ By recurring to legal redress, we too
“ often expose the weakness of the law,
“ which only serves to increase our mor-
“ tification by failing to relieve us. In
“ short, every man should singly consider
“ himself as a guardian of the liberty of
“ the press, and as far as his influence
“ can extend, should endeavour to pre-
“ vent it's licentiousness becoming at last
“ the grave of it's freedom.

“ OLIVER GOLDSMITH.”

Notwithstanding the great success of his pieces, by some of which, it is asserted, upon good authority, that he cleared 1800l. in one year, his circumstances were by no means in a prosperous situation! partly owing to the liberality of his disposition, and partly to an unfortunate habit

habit he had contracted of gaming, with the arts of which he was very little acquainted, and consequently became the prey of those, who were unprincipled enough to take advantage of his ignorance.

Just before his death he had formed a design for executing an universal dictionary of arts and sciences, the *prospectus* of which he actually printed and distributed among his acquaintance. In this work several of his literary friends (particularly Sir Joshua Reynolds, Dr. Johnson, and Mr. Garrick) had promised to assist, and to furnish him with articles upon different subjects. He had entertained the most sanguine expectations from the success of it. The undertaking, however, did not meet with that encouragement from the booksellers which he had
ima-

imagined it would undoubtedly receive; and he used to lament this circumstance almost to the last hour of his existence.

He had been for some years afflicted, at different times, with a violent frangury, which contributed not a little to imbitter the latter part of his life; and which, united with the vexations he suffered upon other occasions, brought on a kind of habitual despondency. In this unhappy condition he was attacked by a nervous fever.

On Friday the twenty-fifth of March, 1774, finding himself extremely ill, he sent at eleven o'clock at night for Mr. Hawes, an apothecary, to whom he complained of a violent pain extending all over the fore part of his head, his tongue was moist, he had no cold shivering, and his
pulse

pulse beat about ninety strokes in a minute. He acquainted him he had taken two ounces of Ipecacuanha wine as a vomit, and that it was his intention to take Dr. James's fever powders, which he desired him to send him. Mr. Hawes replied, that in his opinion this medicine was very improper at *that* time, and begged he would not think of it; but every argument used seemed only to render him more determined in his own opinion.

Mr. Hawes knowing that in preceding illnesses Dr. Goldsmith always consulted Dr. Fordyce, and that he had expressed the greatest opinion of his abilities as a physician, requested he might be permitted to send for him. It was full a quarter of an hour before Mr. Hawes could obtain his

consent, as the taking Dr. James's powders appeared to be the only object which employed his attention; and even then he endeavoured to throw an obstacle in his way, by saying, that Dr. Fordyce was gone to spend the evening in Gerrard-street, "where," added he, "I should also have been, if I had not been indisposed." Mr. Hawes immediately dispatched a messenger who found Dr. Fordyce at home, and who waited on Dr. Goldsmith directly.

Dr. Fordyce represented to him the impropriety of taking the powders in his *present* situation; but he was deaf to all remonstrances, and unhappily persisted in his own resolution.

On

On Saturday morning, March 26, Mr. Hawes visited his patient, he found him extremely reduced, and his pulse was now become very quick and small. When he enquired of him how he did, Dr. Goldsmith sighed deeply, and in a very low voice said, "He wished he had taken
" his friendly advice last night."

Dr. Fordyce perceiving the danger of Dr. Goldsmith's situation, desired Mr. Hawes to propose sending for Dr. Turton, of whom he knew Dr. Goldsmith had a great opinion: the proposal being mentioned to Dr. Goldsmith, he very readily consented, and ordered his servant to go directly. The doctors Fordyce and Turton met at the time appointed to assist at a consultation, which was continued twice a day, till the disorder terminated in his

dissolution, on the fourth day of April, 1774, in the forty-fifth year of his age*.

His

* Mr. Hawes, whose philanthropy is well known, appears to have acted with the greatest attention to the health of his friend, Dr. Goldsmith. The following letter will shew the sense Dr. Goldsmith's relation and friends entertained of Mr. Hawes's conduct.

Mr. Hawes, London, June 10, 1774.

IN a few hours I purpose leaving town, and now return you most sincere thanks for your kind behaviour to me since my arrival here. I also am thoroughly convinced of your care, assiduity, and diligence, with respect to my brother, Dr. Goldsmith. I am also convinced, that as his affairs were put into your hands by Sir Joshua Reynolds, he could have chose no one who would have acted with more caution and disinterestedness to him than you have done, for which you have my sincere wishes for the welfare
of

His friends, who were very numerous and respectable, had determined to bury him in Westminster-abbey: his pall was to have been supported by Lord Shelburne, Lord Louth, Sir Joshua Reynolds, the Hon. Mr. Beauclerc, Mr. Edmund Burke, and Mr. Garrick; but from some unaccountable circumstances this design was dropped, and his remains were privately deposited in the Temple burial-ground, on Saturday the 9th of April; when Mr. Hugh Kelly, Messrs John and Robert Day,

of you and yours.—I am, Sir, with thanks and respects to your family,

Your much obliged humble servant,

MAURICE GOLDSMITH.

Sir Joshua Reynolds, Mr. Burke, Mr. Bott, and others of Dr. Goldsmith's best and most esteemed friends, testified their approbation of Mr. Hawes's conduct.

Mr. Palmer, Mr. Etherington, and Mr. Hawes, gentlemen, who had been his friends in life, attended his corpse as mourners, and paid the last tribute to his memory.

A subscription, however, has since been raised by his friends, to defray the expence of a marble monument, which is now executed by Mr. Nollkens, an eminent statuary in London, and placed in Westminster-abbey, between Gay's monument and the Duke of Argyle's, in Poets Corner. It consists of a large medallion, exhibiting a very good likeness of the Doctor, embellished with literary ornaments, underneath which is a tablet of white marble, with the following Latin inscription, written by his excellent friend Dr. Samuel Johnson.

OLI-

D R. G O L D S M I T H. xxxix

O L I V A R I G O L D S M I T H

Poetæ. Phyfici. Historici.

Qui nullum ferè scribendi genus

Non tetigit.

Nullum quod tetigit non ornavit

Sive Rifus effent movendi

Sive Lacrymæ.

Affectuum potens at lenis Dominator

Ingenio fublimis—Vividus Verfatis

Oratione grandis nitidus Venuftus

Hoc Monumentum Memoriam coluit

Sodalium Amor

Amicorum Fides

Lectorum Veneratio

Natus Hibernia Fornia Lonfordienfis

In Loco cui Nomen Pallas

Nov. xxix. MDCCXXXI.

Eblanæ Literis inftitutus

Obiit Londini

April iv. MDCCLXXIV.

Englisbed.

This Monument is raised
To the Memory of
OLIVER GOLDSMITH,
Poet, Natural Philosopher and
Historian,
Who left no species of writing untouched,
or,
Unadorned by His pen,
Whether to move laughter,
Or draw tears :
He was a powerful master
Over the affections,
Though at the same time a gentle tyrant ;
Of a genius at once sublime, lively, and
Equal to every subject ;
In expression at once noble,
Pure and delicate.
His Memory will last
As long as society retains affection ;
Friend-

Friendship is not void of Honor,
And Reading wants not her admirers.
He was born in the kingdom of Ireland,
At Fernes, in the province
Of Leinster,
Where Pallas had set her name,
29th Nov. 1731.
He was educated at Dublin,
And died in London,
4th April, 1774.

As to his character, it is strongly illustrated by Mr. Pope's line,

“ In wit a man, simplicity a child.”

The learned leisure he loved to enjoy was too often interrupted by distresses which arose from the openness of his temper, and which sometimes threw him into loud fits of passion; but this impetuosity

tuosity was corrected upon a moment's reflection, and his servants have been known upon these occasions, purposely to throw themselves in his way, that they might profit by it immediately after; for he who had the good fortune to be re-proved was certain of being rewarded for it. His disappointments at other times, made him peevish and sullen, and he has often left a party of convivial friends abruptly in the evening, in order to go home and brood over his misfortunes.

The universal esteem in which his poems are held, and the repeated pleasure they give in the perusal, are striking proofs of their merit. He was a studious and correct observer of nature, happy in the selection of his images, in the choice of his subjects, and in the harmony of his versification; and, though his embarrass-
ed

ed situation prevented him from putting the last hand to many of his productions, his *Hermit*, his *Traveller*, and his *Deserted Village*, bid fair to claim a place among the most finished pieces in the English language.

The excellent poem of *Retaliation* was only intended for the Doctor's private amusement, and that of the particular friends who were its subject, and he unfortunately did not live to revise, or even finish it in the manner which he intended. The poem owed its birth to some preceding circumstances of festive merriment *

at

* JUPITER and MERCURY, a Fable. By
DAVID GARRICK.

HERE *Hermes*, says *Jove*, who with Nectar was
mellow,
Go fetch me some clay—I will make an *odd fellow*;
Right

at a literary club, to which the doctor belonged, and who proposed to write epitaphs on him. He was called on for Retali-

Right and wrong shall be jumbled,—much gold and
some dross ;

Without cause be he pleas'd, without cause be he
cross ;

Be sure, as I work, to throw in contradictions,
A great love of truth, yet a mind turn'd to fictions ;
Now mix these ingredients, which, warm'd in the
baking,

Turn to *learning* and *gaming*, *religion* and *raking*.

With the love of a wench, let his writings be chaste ;
Tip his tongue with strange matter, his pen with fine
taste ;

That the rake and the poet o'er all may prevail,
Set fire to the head, and set fire to the tail :

For the joy of each sex, on the world I'll bestow it,
This *scholar*, *rake*, *Christian*, *dupe*, *gamester*, and *poet* :
Though a mixture so odd, he shall merit great fame,
And among brother mortals—be GOLDSMITH his
name ;

When

tiation, and at their next meeting produced the poem.

The last work of this ingenious author, was “ An History of the Earth and Animated Nature,” in 8 vols. 8vo. for which production his bookseller paid him 850 l.

When on earth this strange meteor no more shall
appear,
You, *Hermes*, shall fetch him—to make us sport
here.

ON DR. GOLDSMITH'S CHARACTERISTICAL
COOKERY, a *Jeu D'Esprit*, by David Garrick.

ARE these the choice dishes the Doctor has sent
us ?
Is this the great poet whose works so content us ?
This Goldsmith's fine feast, who has written fine
books ?
Heaven sends us good *meat*, but the *devil sends cooks*.

The

The Doctor seems to have considered attentively the works of the several authors who have wrote on this subject. If there should not be a great deal of discovery, or new matter, yet a judicious selection from abundant materials, is no small praise, and if the experiments and discoveries of other writers are laid open in an agreeable dress, so pleasing as to allure the young reader into a pursuit of this sort of knowledge, we have no small obligations to this very engaging writer.

Our author professes to have had a taste rather classical than scientific, and it was in the study of the classics, that he first caught the desire of attaining a knowledge of nature. Pliny first inspired him, and he resolved to translate that agreeable writer, and by the help of a commentary
to

to make his translation acceptable to the public.

It is not to be questioned that Dr. Goldsmith, had he followed that plan, would have marked out those inaccuracies and extravagancies, into which an easy credulity, or a want of attention, or the little progress of science in the world, in his age, had seduced his original author, and are the blemishes of that ingenious, inquisitive, and laborious writer.

The appearance of Mr. Buffon's work, however, induced the Doctor to change his plan, and instead of translating an ancient writer, he resolved to imitate the last and best of the modern, who had written on natural history.

The

The Doctor acknowledges to have the highest obligations to Buffon, as far as Buffon's work extend, and he could not, we imagine, have chosen to himself a better guide. The Doctor seems to profess that from his first intention of a translation, to his execution of this work, his great object was to send out an agreeable work, and, without flattery, this we think he has effected.

We will not presume to decide whether the adept will find himself enlightened, or his information extended, but undoubtedly the common reader will find his curiosity gratified, and that time agreeably disposed of, which he bestows on this work, and this seems to have been the object of the writer; and an author who has effected what he has proposed, is undoubtedly intitled to all the praise that
the

the nature of the work he has undertaken can pretend to.

Every reader of taste has long regretted that the poetical writings of this author have hitherto been only published in a desultory manner, the collecting them together in a compleat and elegant edition, it is hoped will be considered as a proper tribute to the memory of this truly excellent poet. *

* The writer of these memoirs is indebted for the principal anecdotes contained in them, to a gentleman who well knows their authenticity, and who long lived with Dr. Goldsmith upon the most friendly terms, and never felt any sorrow more sincerely than that which was occasioned by his death.

O N T H E

D E A T H

O F

D R. G O L D S M I T H.

B Y W. W O T Y.

ADIEU, sweet bard! to each fine feeling true,
Thy virtues many, and thy foibles few;
Those form'd to charm e'en vicious minds,—
and these

With harmless mirth the social soul to please.
Another's woe thy heart could always melt;
None gave more free,—for none more deeply felt.
Sweet bard, adieu! thy own harmonious lays
Have sculptur'd out thy monument of praise:

Yes,

ON DR. GOLDSMITH'S DEATH. ¶

Yes,—these survive to time's remotest day ;
While drops the bust, and boastful tombs decay,
Reader, if number'd in the Muse's train,
Go, tune the lyre, and imitate his strain ;
But, if no poet thou, reverse the plan,
Depart in peace, and imitate the man.

COMMENDATORY VERSES.

EXTRACT FROM AN ELEGANT POEM WRITTEN

BY COURTNEY MELMOTH, ESQ.

ON THE DEATH OF EMINENT ENGLISH POETS.

THE TEARS OF GENIUS.

THE village-bell tolls out the note of death,
And through the echoing air, the length'ning sound,
With dreadful pause, reverberating deep;
Spreads the sad tidings, o'er fair Auburn's vale.
There, to enjoy the scenes her bard had prais'd
In all the sweet simplicity of song,
GENIUS, in pilgrim garb, sequester'd sat,
And herded jocund with the harmless swains:
But when she heard the fate-foreboding knell,

With

With startled step, precipitate and swift,
 And look pathetic, full of dire presage,
 The church-way walk, beside the neighb'ring green,
 Sorrowing she sought; and there, in black array,
 Borne on the shoulders of the swains he lov'd,
 She saw the boast of Auburn mov'd along.

Touch'd at the view, her pensive breast she struck,
 And to the cypresses, which incumbent hangs
 With leaning slope, and branch irregular,
 O'er the moss'd pillars of the sacred fane,
 The briar-bound graves shadowing with funeral
 gloom,

Forlorn she hied; and there the crowding woe
 (Swell'd by the parent) press'd on bleeding thought,
 Big ran the drops from her maternal eye,
 Fast broke the bosom-sorrow from her heart,
 And pale Distress, sat sickly on her cheek,
 As thus her plaintive Elegy began.

And must my children all expire?
 Shall none be left to strike the lyre?
 Courts Death alone a learned prize?
 Falls his shafts only on the wife?
 Can no fit marks on earth be found,
 From useless thousands swarming round?

What crowding cyphers cram the land !
What hosts of victims, at command !
Yet shall th' ingenious drop alone ?
Shall Science grace the tyrant's throne ?
Thou murd'rer of the tuneful train !
I charge thee, with my children slain !

Scarce has the sun thrice urg'd his annual tour,
Since half my race have felt thy barbarous power ;

Sore hast thou thinn'd each pleasing art,
And struck a muse with every dart :

Bard, after bard, obey'd thy slaughtering call,
Till scarce a poet lives to sing a brother's fall.

Then let a widow'd mother pay
The tribute of a parting lay.

Tearful, inscribe the monumental strain,
And speak aloud, her feelings, and her pain !

And first, farewell to thee, my son, she cried,
Thou pride of Auburn's dale—sweet bard, farewell.

Long

Long for thy sake, the peafants tear fhall flow,
 And many a virgin-bofom heave with woe,
 For thee fhall forrow fadden all the fcene,
 And every paftime, perifh on the green;
 The fturdy farmer fhall fufpend his tale,
 The woodman's ballad fhall no more regale,
 No more fhall Mirth, each rufic fport infpire,
 But every frolic, every feat fhall tire.
 No more the evening gambol fhall delight,
 Nor moonfhine revels crown the vacant night,
 But groupes of villagers (each joy forgot)
 Shall form, a fad affembly round the cot.
 Sweet bard, farewell—and farewell, Auburn's blifs,
 The bashful lover, and the yielded kifs;
 The evening warble Philomela made,
 The echoing foreft, and the whifpering fhade,
 The winding brook, the bleat of brute content,
 And the blithe voice that “ whiftled as it went.”
 Thefe fhall no longer charm the plowman's care,
 But fighs fhall fill, the pauses of defpair.

GOLDSMITH adieu! the “ book-learn'd prieft”
 for thee
 Shall now in vain poffefs his feftive glee,

The oft-heard jest in vain he shall reveal,
 For now alas, the jest he cannot feel.
 But ruddy damsels o'er thy tomb shall bend,
 And conscious weep for their and virtue's friend :
 The milk-maid shall reject the shepherd's song,
 And cease to carol as she toils along :
 All Auburn shall bewail the fatal day,
 When from her fields, their pride was snatch'd away ;
 And even the matron of the creffy lake
 In piteous plight, her palsied head shall shake,
 While all adown the furrows of her face
 Slow shall the lingering tears each other trace.

And, Oh my child ! severer woes remain,
 To all the houseless, and unshelter'd train :
 Thy fate shall sadden many an humble guest,
 And heap fresh anguish on the beggar's breast.
 For dear wert thou to all the sons of pain ;
 To all that wander, sorrow, or complain,
 Dear to the learned, to the simple dear,
 For daily blessings mark'd thy virtuous year ;
 The rich receiv'd a moral from thy head,
 And from thy heart the stranger found a bed.

Distress

Distress came always smiling from thy door ;
For God had made the agent to the poor ;
Had form'd thy feelings on the noblest plan,
To grace at once, the Poet, and the Man.

EXTRACT FROM

A M O N O D Y

ON THE DEATH OF

DR. OLIVER GOLDSMITH.

DARK as the night, which now in dunnest robe,
Ascends her zenith, o'er the silent globe ;
Sad melancholy wakes, awhile to tread,
With solemn step, the mansions of the dead :
Led by her hand, o'er this yet recent shrine
I forrowing bend ; and here essay to twine
The tributary wreath of laureat bloom,
With artless hands, to deck a poet's tomb ;
The tomb where Goldsmith sleeps. Fond hopes,
adieu !

No more your airy dreams shall mock my view :
Here will I learn ambition to controul,
And each aspiring passion of the soul :

E'en

Iviii O N T H E D E A T H O F

E'en now, methinks, his well-known voice I hear,
When late he meditated flight from care,
When as imagination fondly hied
To scenes of sweet retirement, thus he cried.

“ Ye splendid fabricks, palaces and towers,
“ Where dissipation leads the giddy hours,
“ Where pomp, disease, and knavery reside,
“ And folly bends the knee to wealthy pride ;
“ Where luxury's purveyors learn to rise,
“ And worth, to want a prey, unfriended dies ;
“ Where warbling Eunuchs glitter in brocade,
“ And hapless Poets toil for scanty bread :
“ Farewel ! to other scenes I turn my eyes,
“ Embofom'd in the vale where Auburn lies,
“ Deserted Auburn, those now ruin'd glades,
“ Forlorn, yet ever dear and honour'd shades.
“ There though the Hamlet boasts no smiling train,
“ Nor sportful pastime circling on the plain ;
“ No needy villains proul around for prey,
“ No slanderers, no fycophants betray ;
“ No gaudy foplings scornfully deride
“ The swain, whose humble pipe is all his pride.
“ There will I fly to seek that soft repose,
“ Which folitude contemplative bestows :

“ Yet,

“ Yet, oh fond hope ! perchance there still remains
“ One lingering friend behind, to bless the plains ;
“ Some hermit of the dale, inshrined in ease,
“ Long lost companion of my youthful days ;
“ With whose sweet converse in his social bower,
“ I oft may chide away some vacant hour ;
“ To whose pure sympathy, I may impart
“ Each latent grief, that labours at my heart,
“ Whate’er I felt, and what I saw, relate,
“ The shoals of luxury, the wrecks of state ;
“ Those busy scenes, where science wakes in vain,
“ In which I shar’d, ah ! ne’er to share again.
“ But whence that pang ? does nature now rebel ?
“ Why falters out my tongue the word *farewel* ?
“ Ye friends ! who long have witness’d to my toil,
“ And seen me ploughing in a thankless soil,
“ Whose partial tendernefs hush’d every pain,
“ Whose approbation made my bosom vain :
“ ’Tis you, to whom my soul divided hies
“ With fond regret, and half unwilling flies ;
“ Sighs forth her parting wishes to the wind,
“ And lingering leaves her better half behind.
“ Can I forget the intercourse I shar’d,
“ What friendship cherish’d, and what zeal endear’d ?
“ Alas !

lx ON THE DEATH OF

“ Alas! remembrance still must turn to you,
“ And to my latest hour, protract the long *adieu*.
“ Amid the woodlands, wheresoe'er I rove,
“ The plain, or secret covert of the grove,
“ Imagination shall supply her store
“ Of painful bliss, and what she can restore;
“ Shall strew each lonely path with flowrets gay,
“ And wide as is her boundless empire stray.
“ On eagle pinions traverse earth, and skies,
“ And bid the loft and distant objects rise.
“ Here, where encircled o'er the sloping land
“ Woods rise on woods, shall Aristotle stand;
“ Lyceum round the godlike man rejoice,
“ And bow with reverence to wisdom's voice.
“ There, spreading oaks shall arch the vaulted dome,
“ The Champion, there, of liberty, and Rome,
“ In attack eloquence shall thunder laws,
“ And uncorrupted senates shout applause.
“ Not more extatic visions rapt the soul
“ Of Numa, when to midnight grots he stole,——
“ And learnt his lore, from virtue's mouth refin'd,
“ To fetter vice, and harmonize mankind.
“ Now stretch'd at ease beside some fav'rite stream,
“ Of beauty, and enchantment will I dream;
“ Elysium,

“ Elysium, feats of art, and laurels won,
“ The Graces three, and * Japhet’s fabled son :
“ Whilst Angelo shall wave the mystic rod,
“ And see a new creation wait his nod ;
“ Prescribe his bounds to Time’s remorseless power,
“ And, to my arms, my absent friends restore,
“ Place me amidst the group, each well-known face,
“ The sons of science, lords of human race ;
“ And as oblivion sinks at his command,
“ Nature shall rise more finish’d from his hand,
“ Thus some Magician fraught with potent skill,
“ Transforms, and moulds each varied mass at will ;
“ Calls animated forms of wondrous birth,
“ Cadmean offspring, from the teeming earth,
“ Uncears the ponderous tombs, the realms of night,
“ And calls their cold inhabitants to light ;
“ Or, as he traverses a dreary scene,
“ Bids every sweet of nature there convene,
“ Huge mountains skirted round with wavy woods,
“ The shrub-deck’d lawns, and silver sprinkled floods,
“ Whilst flowrets spring around the smiling land,
“ And follow on the traces of his wand.

* Prometheus.

“ Such

“ Such prospects, lovely Auburn ! then, be thine ;
 “ And what thou canst of bliss impart be mine ;
 “ Amid thy humble shades, in tranquil ease,
 “ Grant me to pass the remnant of my days.
 “ Unfetter’d from the toil of wretched gain,
 “ My raptur’d muse shall pour her noblest strain,
 “ Within her native bowers the notes prolong,
 “ And, grateful, meditate her latest song.
 “ Thus, as adown the slope of life I bend,
 “ And move, resign’d, to meet my latter end,
 “ Each worldly wish, each worldly care repress,
 “ A self-approving heart alone possess,
 “ Content, to bounteous heaven I’ll leave the rest.” }

Thus, spoke the Bard : but not one friendly power,
 With nod assentive crown’d the parting hour ;
 No eastern meteor glar’d beneath the sky,
 No dextral omen ; Nature heav’d a sigh
 Prophetic of the dire impending blow,
 The presage of her loss, and Britain’s woe.
 Already portion’d, unrelenting Fate
 Had made a pause upon the number’d date ;
 Behind, stood death, too horrible for fight,
 In darkness clad, expectant, prun’d for flight ;
 Pleas’d at the word, the shapeless monster sped,
 On eager message to the humble shed,

Where

Where wrapt by soft poetic visions round,
Sweet slumbering, Fancy's darling son he found.
At his approach the filken pinion'd train
Affrighted, mount aloft, and quit the brain ;
Which late they fann'd : now other scenes than dales
Of woody pride, succeed, or flow'ry vales :
As when a sudden tempest veils the sky,
Before serene, and streaming lightnings fly ;
The prospect shifts, and pitchy volumes roll,
Along the drear expanse, from pole to pole ;
Terrific horrors all the void invest,
Whilst the Archspectre issues forth confest.
The bard beholds him beckon to the tomb
Of yawning night, eternity's dread womb ;
In vain attempts to fly, the impassive air
Retards his steps, and yields him to despair ;
He feels a gripe that thrills through every vein,
And panting struggles in the fatal chain.
Here paus'd the fell destroyer to survey
The pride, the boast of man, his destin'd prey,
Prepar'd to strike, he pois'd aloft the dart,
And plung'd the steel in Virtue's bleeding heart ;
Abhorrent, back the springs of life rebound,
And leave on Nature's face a grisly wound,

A wound

A wound enroll'd among Britannia's woes,
That ages yet to follow, cannot close.

Oh, Goldsmith! how shall sorrow now essay
To murmur out her slow incondite lay?
In what sad accents mourn the luckless hour,
That yielded thee to unrelenting power;
Thee, the proud boast, of all the tuneful train
That sweep the lyre, or swell the polish'd strain?
Much honour'd Bard! if my untutur'd verse
Could pay a tribute, worthy of thy hearse,
With fearless hands I'd build the fane of praise,
And boldly strew the never fading bays.
But, ah! with thee my guardian Genius fled,
And pillow'd in thy tomb his silent head:
Pain'd Memory alone behind remains,
And pensive stalks the solitary plains,
Rich in her sorrows, honours without art,
She pays in tears, redundant from the heart.
And say, what boots it o'er thy hallow'd dust
To heap the graven pile, or laurel'd bust;
Since by thy hands already rais'd on high,
We see a fabrick tow'ring to the sky;
Where hand and hand with time, the sacred lore
Shall travel on, till nature is no more?



P O E M S,

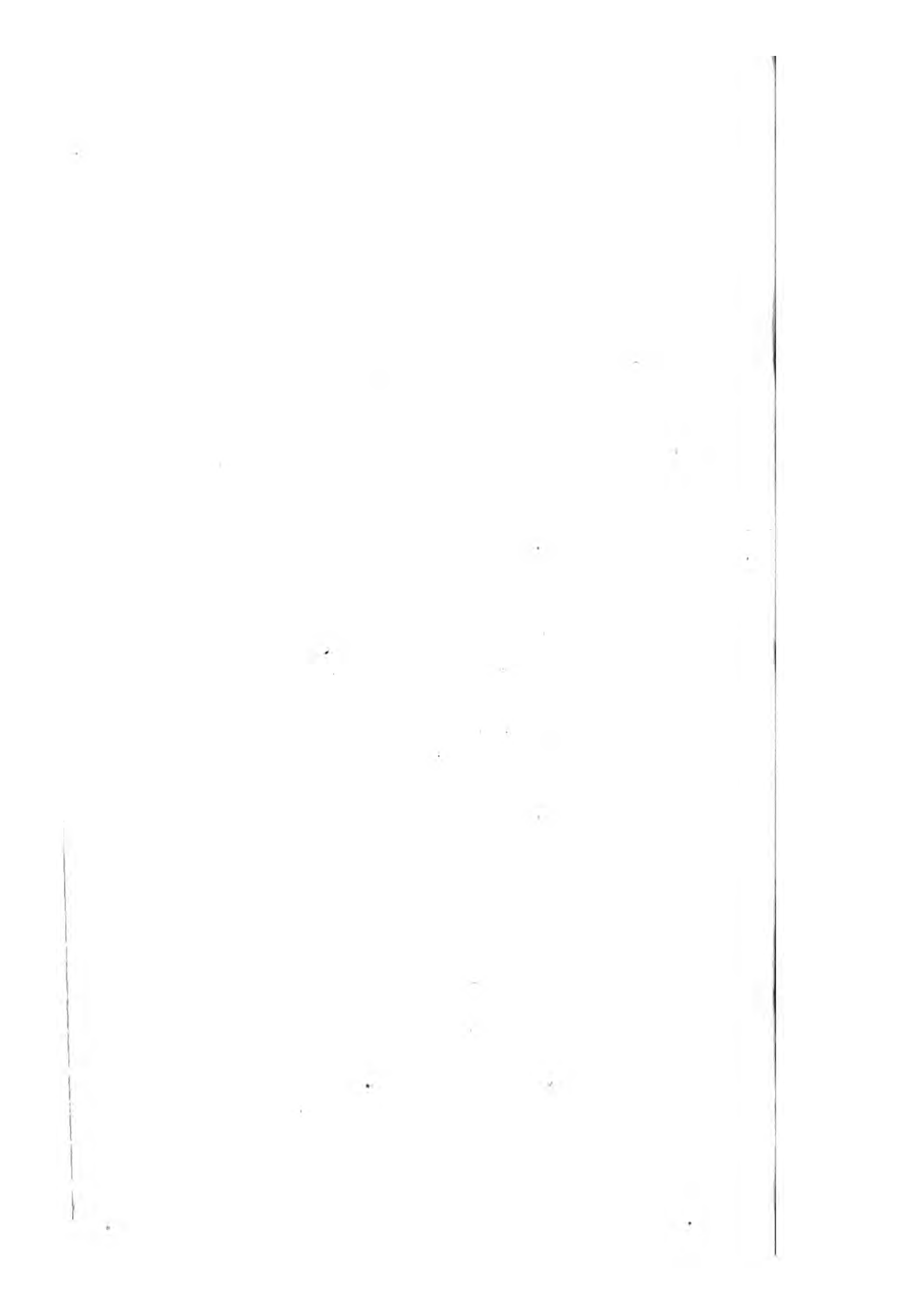
B Y

D R. G O L D S M I T H.

VOL. I.

B

A





A

P R O L O G U E,

WRITTEN AND SPOKEN BY

T H E P O E T L A B E R I U S,

A ROMAN KNIGHT, WHOM CÆSAR FORCED

UPON THE STAGE.

P R E S E R V E D B Y M A C R O B I U S. *

WHAT! no way left to shun th' inglorious stage,
And save from infamy my sinking age!
Scarce half-alive, oppress'd with many a year,
What in the name of dotage drives me here?
A time there was, when glory was my guide,
Nor force nor fraud could turn my steps aside;
Unaw'd by power, and unappal'd by fear,
With honest thrift I held my honour dear:

* This translation was first printed in one of our Author's earliest works, "The Present State of Learning in Europe." 12mo. 1759.

But this vile hour disperfes all my ftore,
And all my hoard of honour is no more ;
For ah ! too partial to my life's decline,
Cæfar perfuades, fubmiffion muft be mine ;
Him I obey, whom Heaven itfelf obeys,
Hopelefs of pleafing, yet inclin'd to pleafe.
Here then at once I welcome every fhame,
And cancel at threescore a life of fame ;
No more my titles fhall my children tell
The old buffoon will fit my name as well ;
This day beyond its term my fate extends,
For life is ended when our honour ends.

T H E

DOUBLE TRANSFORMATION.

A T A L E.

SECLUDED from domestic strife,
 Jack Book-worm led a college life ;
 A fellowship at twenty-five,
 Made him the happiest man alive ;
 He drank his glafs, and crack'd his joke,
 And freshmen wonder'd as he spoke.

Such pleasures, unallay'd with care,
 Could any accident impair ?
 Could Cupid's shaft at length transfix
 Our swain arriv'd at thirty-fix ?
 O had the archer ne'er come down
 To ravage in a country town !
 Or Flavia been content to stop
 At triumphs in a Fleet-street shop.
 O had her eyes forgot to blaze !
 Or Jack had wanted eyes to gaze.

O!—But let exclamation cease,
 Her presence banish'd all his peace.
 So with decorum all things carry'd;
 Miss frown'd, and blush'd, and then was—married.

Need we expose to vulgar fight
 The raptures of the bridal night?
 Need we intrude on hallow'd ground,
 Or draw the curtains clos'd around?
 Let it suffice, that each had charms;
 He clasp'd a goddess in his arms;
 And, though she felt his usage rough,
 Yet in a man 'twas well enough.

The honey-moon like light'ning flew,
 The second brought its transports too.
 A third, a fourth, were not amiss,
 The fifth was friendship mix'd with bliss:
 But, when a twelvemonth pass'd away,
 Jack found his goddess made of clay;
 Found half the charms that deck'd her face
 Arose from powder, shreds, or lace;
 But still the worst remain'd behind,
 That very face had robb'd her mind.

Skill'd in no other arts was she,
 But dressing, patching, repartee;
 And, just as humour rose or fell,
 By turns a flatterer or a belle;

'Tis

'Tis true she drefs'd with modern grace,
 Half naked at a ball or race ;
 But when at home, at board or bed,
 Five greasy night-caps wrap'd her head.
 Could so much beauty condescend
 To be a dull domestic friend ?
 Could any curtain lectures bring
 To decency so fine a thing ?
 In short, by night, 'twas fits or fretting ;
 By day, 'twas gadding or coquetting.
 Fond to be seen, she kept a bevy
 Of powder'd coxcombs at her levy ;
 The 'squire and captain took their stations,
 And twenty other near relations ;
 Jack suck'd his pipe, and often broke
 A sigh in suffocating smoke ;
 While all their hours were pass'd between
 Insulting repartee or spleen.

Thus as her faults each day were known,
 He thinks her features coarser grown ;
 He fancies every vice she shews,
 Or thins her lip, or points her nose :
 Whenever rage or envy rise,
 How wide her mouth, how wild her eyes !
 He knows not how, but so it is,
 Her face is grown a knowing phyz ;
 And, though her fops are wond'rous civil,
 He thinks her ugly as the devil.

8 T H E D O U B L E

Now, to perplex the ravell'd nooze,
As each a different way pursues,
While fullen or loquacious strife
Promised to hold them on for life,
That dire disease, whose ruthless power
Withers the beauty's transient flower:
Lo! the small pox, whose horrid glare
Levell'd its terrors at the fair;
And, rifling every youthful grace,
Left but the remnant of a face.

The glass, grown hateful to her sight,
Reflected now a perfect fright:
Each former art she vainly tries
To bring back lustre to her eyes.
In vain she tries her paste and creams,
To smooth her skin, or hide its seams;
Her country beaux and city cousins,
Lovers no more, flew off by dozens:
The 'squire himself was seen to yield,
And ev'n the captain quit the field.

Poor madam now condemn'd to hack
The rest of life with anxious Jack,
Perceiving others fairly flown,
Attempted pleasing him alone.
Jack soon was dazzled to behold
Her present face surpass the old;
With modesty her cheeks are dy'd,
Humility displaces pride;

For

T R A N S F O R M A T I O N .

9

For taudry finery is feen
A Person ever neatly clean :
No more presuming on her sway,
She learns good-nature every day ;
Serenely gay, and strict in duty,
Jack finds his wife a perfect beauty.

A N E W

A
N E W S I M I L E
I N T H E
M A N N E R O F S W I F T.

LONG had I sought in vain to find
A likeness for the scribbling kind ;
The modern scribbling kind, who write,
In wit, and sense, and nature's spite :
'Till reading, I forget what day on,
A chapter out of Took's Pantheon,
I think I met with something there,
To suit my purpose to a hair ;
But let us not proceed too furious,
First please to turn to God Mercurius ;
You'll find him pictur'd at full length
In book the second, page the tenth :
The stress of all my proofs on him I lay,
And now proceed we to our simile.

Imprimis, pray observe his hat,
Wings upon either side—mark that.

Well!

Well! what is it from thence we gather?
Why these denote a brain of feather.
A brain of feather! very right,
With wit that's flighty, learning light;
Such as to modern bard's decreed;
A just comparifon,—proceed.

In the next place, his feet perufe,
Wings grow again from both his shoes;
Design'd, no doubt, their part to bear,
And waft his godfhip through the air;
And here my fimile unites,
For in modern poet's flights,
I'm fure it may be juftly faid,
His feet are ufeful as his head.

Laftly, vouchsafe t'obferve his hand,
Fill'd with a fnake-incircled wand;
By claffick authors, term'd caduceus,
And highly fam'd for feveral ufes.
To wit—moft wond'roufly endu'd,
No poppy water half fo good;
For let folks only get a touch,
Its foporific virtue's fuch,
Though ne'er fo much awake before,
That quickly they begin to fnore.
Add too, what certain writers tell,
With this he drives mens fouls to hell.

Now

Now to apply, begin we then;
 His wand's a modern author's pen;
 The serpents round about it twin'd,
 Denote him of the reptile kind;
 Denote the rage with which he writes,
 His frothy flaver, venom'd bites;
 An equal semblance still to keep,
 Alike too both conduce to sleep.
 This difference only as the God
 Drove souls to Tart'rus with his rod,
 With his goosequill the scribbling elf,
 Instead of others, damns himself.

And here my simile almost tript,
 Yet grant a word by way of postscript.
 Moreover, Merc'ry had a failing:
 Well! what of that? out with it—stealing;
 In which all modern bards agree,
 Being each as great a thief as he:
 But ev'n this deity's existence
 Shall lend my simile assistance.
 Our modern bards! why what a pox
 Are they but senseless stones and blocks?

A
D E S C R I P T I O N
O F A N
A U T H O R ' S B E D - C H A M B E R .

WHERE the Red Lion staring o'er the way,
Invites each passing stranger that can pay ;
Where Calvert's butt, and Parson's black champaign,
Regale the drabs and bloods of Drury-lane ;
There in a lonely room, from bailiffs snug,
The Muse found Scroggen stretch'd beneath a rug ;
A window patch'd with paper, lent a ray,
That dimly shew'd the state in which he lay ;
The fanded floor that grits beneath the tread ;
The humid wall with paltry pictures spread :
The royal game of goose was there in view,
And the twelve rules the royal martyr drew ;
The seasons, fram'd with lifting, found a place,
And brave prince William shew'd his lamp-black face :
The

14 T H E B E D - C H A M B E R .

The morn was cold, he views with keen desire
The rusty grate unconscious of a fire :
With beer and milk arrears, the frieze was scor'd,
And five crack'd tea cups dress'd the chimney board ;
A night-cap deck'd his brows instead of bay,
A cap by night——a stocking all the day !

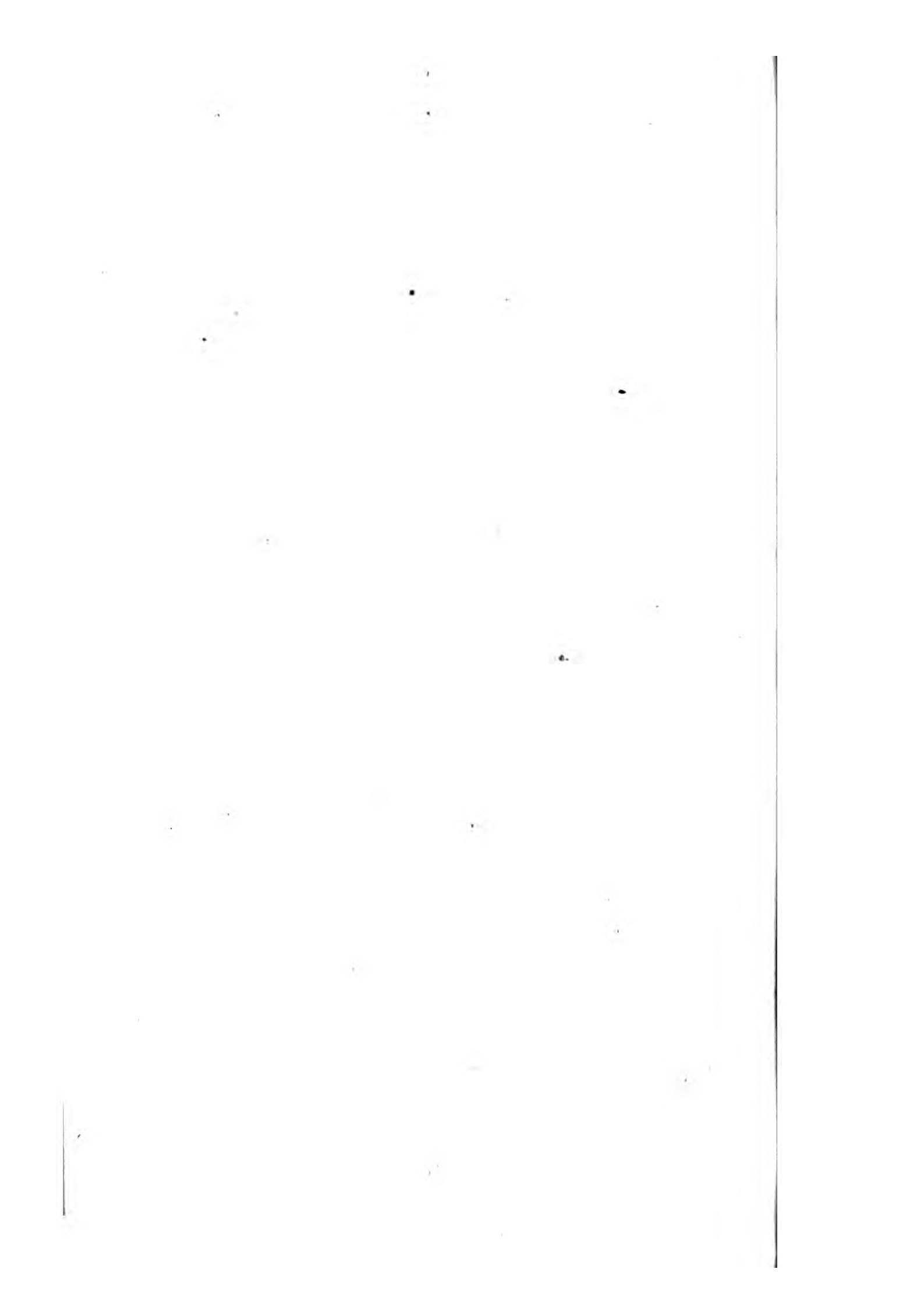
T H E

T H E

H E R M I T.

A ° B A L L A D.

FIRST PRINTED IN MDCCLXV.



THE FOLLOWING

L E T T E R,

ADDRESSED TO THE

PRINTER OF THE ST. JAMES'S CHRONICLE,

APPEARED IN THAT PAPER, IN JUNE,
MDCCLXVII.

S I R,

AS there is nothing I dislike so much as newspaper controversy, particularly upon trifles, permit me to be as concise as possible in informing a correspondent of yours, that I recommended Blainville's Travels, because I thought the book was a good one; and I think so still. I said, I was told by the bookseller that it was then first published; but in that, it seems, I was mis-informed, and my reading was not extensive enough to set me right.

Another correspondent of yours accuses me of having taken a ballad, I published some time ago,

V O L. I.

C

from

from one * by the ingenious Mr. Percy. I do not think there is any great resemblance between the two pieces in question. If there be any, his ballad is taken from mine. I read it to Mr. Percy, some years ago; and he (as we both considered these things as trifles at best) told me with his usual good humour, the next time I saw him, that he had taken my plan to form the fragments of Shakespeare into a ballad of his own. He then read me his little Cento, if I may so call it, and I highly approved it. Such petty anecdotes as these are scarce worth printing: and, were it not for the busy disposition of some of your correspondents, the public should never have known that he owes me the hint of his ballad, or that I am obliged to his friendship and learning for communications of a much more important nature.

I am, Sir,

Yours, &c.

OLIVER GOLDSMITH.

* The Friar of Orders Gray. "Reliq. of Anc. Poetry," vol. 1. p. 243.

F H E
H E R M I T.
A
B A L L A D.

“ T U R N, gentle Hermit of the dale,
“ And guide my lonely way,
“ To where yon taper chears the vale
“ With hospitable ray.

“ For here forlorn and lost I tread,
“ With fainting steps and slow ;
“ Where wilds, immeasurably spread,
“ Seem length’ning as I go.”

“ Forbear, my son,” the Hermit cries,
“ To tempt the dangerous gloom ;
“ For yonder faithless phantom flies
“ To lure thee to thy doom.

“ Here to the houseless child of want
“ My door is open still ;
“ And though my portion is but scant,
“ I give it with good will.

“ Then turn to-night, and freely share
“ Whate'er my cell bestows ;
“ My rushy couch and frugal fare,
“ My blessing and repose.

“ No flocks that range the valley free,
“ To slaughter I condemn :
“ Taught by that power that pities me,
“ I learn to pity them :

“ But from the mountain's grassy side
“ A guiltless feast I bring ;
“ A scrip with herbs and fruits supply'd,
“ And water from the spring.

“ Then, pilgrim, turn, thy cares forego ;
“ All earth-born cares are wrong :
“ Man wants but little here below,
“ Nor wants that little long.”

Soft as the dew from heaven descends,
His gentle accents fell :
The modest stranger lowly bends,
And follows to the cell.

Far in a wildernews obfcure
The lonely manfion lay ;
A refuge to the neighb'ring poor,
And ftrangers led aftray.

No ftores beneath its humble thatch
Requir'd a mafter's care ;
The wicket op'ning with a latch,
Receiv'd the harmlefs pair.

And now, when bufy crowds retire
To take their evening reft,
The Hermit trimm'd his little fire,
And chear'd his penfive gueft :

And fpread his vegetable ftore,
And gayly preft, and fmil'd ;
And, fkill'd in legendary lore,
The lingering hours beguil'd.

Around in fym pathetic mirth
Its tricks the kitten tries ;
The cricket chirrup in the hearth ;
The crackling faggot flies.

But nothing could a charm impart
To foothe a ftranger's woe ;
For grief was heavy at his heart,
And tears began to flow.

His rising cares the Hermit spy'd,
 With answering care oppress :
 " And whence, unhappy youth," he cry'd,
 " The sorrows of thy breast ?

 " From better habitations spurn'd,
 " Reluctant dost thou rove :
 " Or grieve for friendship unreturn'd,
 " Or unregarded love ?

 " Alas ! the joys that fortune brings,
 " Are trifling and decay ;
 " And those who prize the paltry things,
 " More trifling still than they.

 " And what is friendship but a name,
 " A charm that lulls to sleep ;
 " A shade that follows wealth or fame,
 " And leaves the wretch to weep ?

 " And love is still an emptier sound,
 " The modern fair-one's jest :
 " On earth unseen, or only found
 " To warm the turtle's nest.

 " For shame, fond youth, thy sorrows huff,
 " And spurn the sex," he said :
 But while he spoke, a rising blush
 His love-lorn guest betray'd.

Sur-

Surpriz'd he sees new beauties rise,
 Swift mantling to the view ;
 Like colours o'er the morning skies,
 As bright, as transient too.

The bashful look, the rising breast,
 Alternate spread alarms :
 The lovely stranger stands confest
 A maid in all her charms.

“ And, ah, forgive a stranger rude,
 “ A wretch forlorn,” she cry'd ;
 “ Whose feet unhallow'd thus intrude
 “ Where heaven and you reside.

“ But let a maid thy pity share,
 “ Whom love has taught to stray ;
 “ Who seeks for rest, but finds despair
 “ Companion of her way.

“ My father liv'd beside the Tyne,
 “ A wealthy lord was he ;
 “ And all his wealth was mark'd as mine,
 “ He had but only me.

“ To win me from his tender arms,
 “ Unnumber'd suitors came ;
 “ Who prais'd me for imputed charms,
 “ And felt, or feign'd a flame.

" Each hour a mercenary croud
 " With richest proffers strove :
 " Among the rest young Edwin bow'd,
 " But never talk'd of love.

" In humble, simplest habit clad,
 " No wealth or power had he ;
 " Wisdom and worth were all he had,
 " But these were all to me.

" The blossom opening to the day,
 " The dews of heaven refin'd,
 " Could nought of purity display,
 " To emulate his mind.

" The dew, the blossoms of the tree,
 " With charms inconstant shine ;
 " Their charms were his, but wo to me,
 " Their constancy was mine.

" For still I try'd each fickle art,
 " Importunate and vain ;
 " And while his passion touch'd my heart,
 " I triumph'd in his pain.

" Till quite dejected with my scorn,
 " He left me to my pride ;
 " And sought a solitude forlorn
 " In secret, where he dy'd,

" But

“ But mine the sorrow, mine the fault,
 “ And well my life shall pay ;
 “ I’ll seek the solitude he sought,
 “ And stretch me where he lay.

“ And there forlorn, despairing hid,
 “ I’ll lay me down and die ;
 “ ’Twas so for me that Edwin did,
 “ And so for him will I.”

“ Forbid it, heaven !” the Hermit cry’d,
 And clasp’d her to his breast :
 The wondering fair-one turn’d to chide,
 ’Twas Edwin’s self that prest.

“ Turn, Angelina, ever dear,
 “ My charmer, turn to see
 “ Thy own, thy long-lost Edwin here,
 “ Restor’d to love and thee.

“ Thus let me hold thee to my heart,
 “ And every care resign :
 “ And shall we never, never part,
 “ My life—my all that’s mine.

“ No, never, from this hour to part,
 “ We’ll live and love so true,
 “ The sigh that rends thy constant heart,
 “ Shall break thy Edwin’s too.”

A N
E L E G Y
O N T H E
D E A T H O F A M A D D O G.

GOOD people all, of every fort,
Give ear unto my song ;
And if you find it wonderous short,
It cannot hold you long.

In Iffing-ton there was a man,
Of whom the world might say,
That still a godly race he ran,
Whene'er he went to pray.

A kind and gentle heart he had,
To comfort friends and foes ;
The naked every day he clad,
When he put on his cloaths.

And in that town a dog was found,
As many dogs there be,
Both mungrel, puppy, whelp, and hound,
And curs of low degree.

This

This dog and man at first were friends ;
But when a pique began,
The dog, to gain his private ends,
Went mad, and bit the man.

Around from all the neighbouring streets,
The wondering neighbours ran,
And swore the dog had lost his wits,
To bite so good a man.

The wound it seem'd both fore and fad
To every christian eye ;
And while they swore the dog was mad,
They swore the man would die.

But soon a wonder came to light,
That shew'd the rogues they ly'd,
The man recover'd of the bite,
The dog it was that dy'd.

S T A N Z A S

O N

W O M A N.

WHEN lovely woman stoops to folly,
And finds too late that men betray,
What charm can soothe her melancholy,
What art can wash her guilt away?

The only art her guilt to cover,
To hide her shame from every eye,
To give repentance to her lover,
And wring his bosom—is, to die.

T H E

THE
TRAVELLER;
OR, A
PROSPECT OF SOCIETY.

A
P O E M.

FIRST PRINTED IN MDCCLXV.



T O T H E

REV. HENRY GOLDSMITH.

DEAR SIR,

I AM sensible that the friendship between us can acquire no new force from the ceremonies of a Dedication; and perhaps it demands an excuse thus to prefix your name to my attempts, which you decline giving with your own. But as a part of this Poem was formerly written to you from Switzerland, the whole can now, with propriety, be only inscribed to you. It will also throw a light upon many parts of it, when the reader understands, that it is addressed to a man, who, despising Fame and Fortune, has retired early to Happiness and Obscurity, with an income of forty pounds a year.

I now perceive, my dear brother, the wisdom of your humble choice. You have entered upon a sacred office, where the harvest is great, and the labourers are but few; while you have left the field of Ambition, where the labourers are many, and the

the harvest not worth carrying away. But of all kinds of ambition, what from the refinement of the times, from different systems of criticism, and from the divisions of party, that which pursues poetical fame is the wildest.

Poetry makes a principal amusement among unpolished nations; but in a country verging to the extremes of refinement, Painting and Music come in for a share. As these offer the feeble mind a less laborious entertainment, they at first rival Poetry, and at length supplant her; they engross all that favour once shewn to her, and, though but younger sisters, seize upon the elder's birthright.

Yet, however this art may be neglected by the powerful, it is still in greater danger from the mistaken efforts of the learned to improve it. What criticisms have we not heard of late in favour of blank verse, and Pindaric odes, chorusses, anapests and iambics, alliterative care and happy negligence! Every absurdity has now a champion to defend it; and as he is generally much in the wrong, so he has always much to say; for error is ever talkative.

But there is an enemy to this art still more dangerous, I mean Party. Party entirely distorts the judgment, and destroys the taste. When the mind is once infected with this disease, it can only find
pleasure

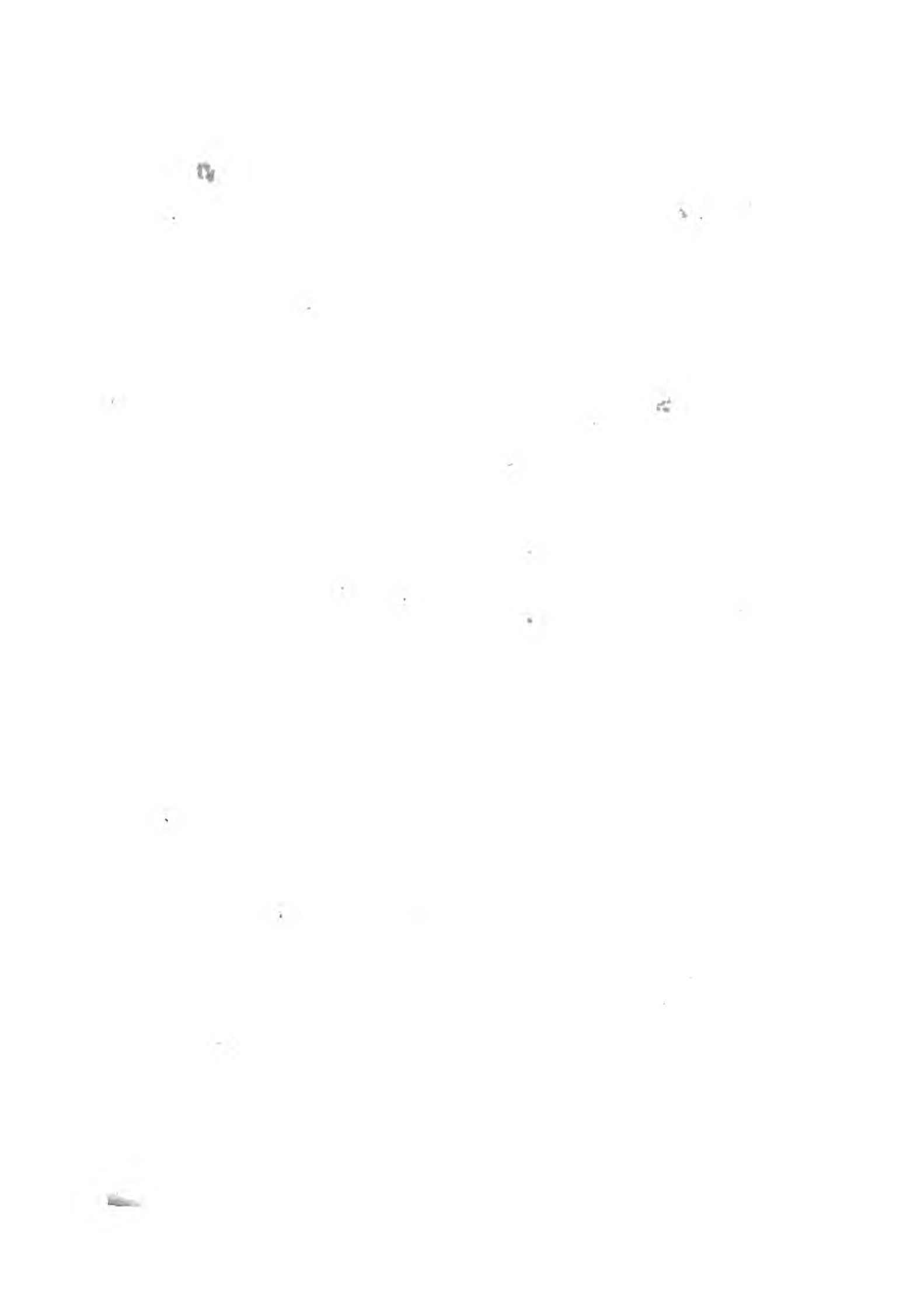
pleasure in what contributes to increase the distemper. Like the tyger, that seldom desists from pursuing man, after having once preyed upon human flesh, the reader, who has once gratified his appetite with calumny, makes, ever after, the most agreeable feast upon murdered reputation. Such readers generally admire some half-witted thing, who wants to be thought a bold man, having lost the character of a wise one. Him they dignify with the name of poet: his tawdry lampoons are called satires; his turbulence is said to be force, and his phrenzy fire.

What reception a Poem may find, which has neither abuse, party, nor blank verse to support it, I cannot tell, nor am I solicitous to know. My aims are right. Without espousing the cause of any party, I have attempted to moderate the rage of all. I have endeavoured to shew, that there may be equal happiness in states, that are differently governed from our own; that every state has a particular principle of happiness, and that this principle in each may be carried to a mischievous excess. There are few can judge, better than yourself, how far these positions are illustrated in this Poem. I am,

D E A R S I R,

YOUR MOST AFFECTIONATE BROTHER,

OLIVER GOLDSMITH.



T H E
T R A V E L L E R ;

O R, A.

P R O S P E C T O F S O C I E T Y. *

REMOTE, unfriended, melancholy, slow,
Or by the lazy Scheld, or wandering Po ;
Or onward, where the rude Carinthian boor
Against the houseless stranger shuts the door ;
Or where Campania's plain forsaken lies,
A weary waste expanding to the skies ;
Where'er I roam, whatever realms to see,
My heart untravell'd fondly turns to thee :
Still to my brother turns, with ceaseless pain,
And drags at each remove a lengthening chain.

* In this poem several alterations were made, and some new verses added, as it passed through different editions.— We have printed from the ninth, which was the last edition published in the life-time of the author.

Eternal blessings crown my earliest friend,
And round his dwelling guardian faints attend ;
Blest be that spot, where chearful guests retire
To pause from toil, and trim their evening fire ;
Blest that abode, where want and pain repair,
And every stranger finds a ready chair :
Blest be those feasts with simple plenty crown'd,
Where all the ruddy family around
Laugh at the jests or pranks that never fail,
Or sigh with pity at some mournful tale ;
Or press the bashful stranger to his food,
And learn the luxury of doing good.

But me, not destin'd such delights to share,
My prime of life in wandering spent and care :
Impell'd, with steps unceasing, to pursue
Some fleeting good, that mocks me with the view ;
That, like the circle bounding earth and skies,
Allures from far, yet, as I follow, flies ;
My fortune leads to traverse realms alone,
And find no spot of all the world my own.

Ev'n now, where Alpine solitudes ascend,
I sit me down a pensive hour to spend ;
And, plac'd on high above the storm's career,
Look downward where an hundred realms appear ;
Lakes, forests, cities, plains extending wide,
The pomp of kings, the shepherd's humbler pride.

When

When thus Creation's charms around combine,
 Amidst the store, should thankless pride repine?
 Say, should the philosophic mind disdain
 That good which makes each humbler bosom vain?
 Let school-taught pride dissemble all it can,
 These little things are great to little man;
 And wiser he, whose sympathetic mind
 Exults in all the good of all mankind.
 Ye glittering towns, with wealth and splendor crown'd;
 Ye fields, where summer spreads profusion round;
 Ye lakes, whose vessels catch the busy gale;
 Ye bending swains, that dress the flowery vale;
 For me your tributary stores combine:
 Creation's heir, the world, the world is mine.

As some lone miser, visiting his store,
 Bends at his treasure, counts, recounts it o'er;
 Hoards after hoards his rising raptures fill,
 Yet still he sighs, for hoards are wanting still:
 Thus to my breast alternate passions rise,
 Pleas'd with each good that heaven to man supplies:
 Yet oft a sigh prevails, and sorrows fall,
 To see the hoard of human bliss so small;
 And oft I wish, amidst the scene, to find
 Some spot to real happiness consign'd,
 Where my worn soul, each wandering hope at rest,
 May gather bliss to see my fellows blest.

But where to find that happiest spot below,
 Who can direct, when all pretend to know?

The shudd'ring tenant of the frigid zone
Boldly proclaims that happiest spot his own;
Extols the treasures of his stormy seas,
And his long nights of revelry and ease;
The naked negro, panting at the line,
Boasts of his golden sands and palmy wine,
Basks in the glare, or stems the tepid wave,
And thanks his gods for all the good they gave.
Such is the patriot's boast, where'er we roam,
His first, best country, ever is at home.
And yet, perhaps, if countries we compare,
And estimate the blessings which they share,
Though patriots flatter, still shall wisdom find
An equal portion dealt to all mankind;
As different good, by art or nature given,
To different nations makes their blessings even.

Nature, a mother kind alike to all,
Still grants her bliss at labour's earnest call;
With food as well the peasant is supply'd
On Idra's cliffs as Arno's shelvy side;
And though the rocky crested summits frown,
These rocks, by custom, turn to beds of down,
From art more various are the blessings sent;
Wealth, commerce, honour, liberty, content.
Yet these each other's power so strong contest,
That either seems destructive of the rest.
Where wealth and freedom reign, contentment fails;
And honour sinks where commerce long prevails.

Hence

Hence every state to one lov'd blessing prone,
Conforms and models life to that alone.
Each to the fav'rite happiness attends,
And spurns the plan that aims at other ends ;
'Till carried to excess in each domain,
This fav'rite good begets peculiar pain.

But let us try these truths with closer eyes,
And trace them through the prospect as it lies :
Here for a while my proper cares resign'd,
Here let me sit in sorrow for mankind;
Like yon neglected shrub at random cast,
That shades the steep, and sighs at every blast.

Far to the right where Appennine ascends,
Bright as the summer, Italy extends ;
Its uplands sloping deck the mountain's side,
Woods over woods in gay theatric pride ;
While oft some temple's mould'ring tops between
With venerable grandeur mark the scene,

Could Nature's bounty satisfy the breast,
The sons of Italy were surely blest.
Whatever fruits in different climes were found,
That proudly rise, or humbly court the ground ;
Whatever blooms in torrid tracts appear,
Whose bright succession decks the varied year ;
Whatever sweets salute the northern sky
With vernal lives, that blossom but to die ;

THE TRAVELLER.

These here disporting own the kindred soil,
 Nor ask luxuriance from the planter's toil;
 While sea-born gales their gelid wings expand
 To winnow fragrance round the smiling land.

But small the bliss that sense alone bestows,
 And sensual bliss is all the nation knows.
 In florid beauty groves and fields appear,
 Man seems the only growth that dwindles here.
 Contrasted faults through all his manners reign:
 Though poor, luxurious; though submissive, vain;
 Though grave, yet trifling; zealous, yet untrue;
 And even in penance planning sins anew.
 All evils here contaminate the mind,
 That opulence departed leaves behind;
 For wealth was theirs, not far remov'd the date,
 When commerce proudly flourish'd through the state;
 At her command the palace learnt to rise,
 Again the long-fall'n column fought the skies;
 The canvas glow'd beyond e'en Nature warm,
 The pregnant quarry teem'd with human form.
 Till, more unsteady than the southern gale,
 Commerce on other shores display'd her fail;
 While nought remain'd of all that riches gave,
 But towns unmann'd, and lords without a slave:
 And late the nation found with fruitless skill
 Its former strength was but plethoric ill.

Yet, still the loss of wealth is here supplied
 By arts, the splendid wrecks of former pride;

From

From these the feeble heart and long-fallen mind
An easy compensation seem to find.

Here may be seen, in bloodless pomp array'd,
The paste-board triumph and the cavalcade ;

Processions form'd for piety and love,

A mistress or a saint in every grove.

By sports like these are all their cares beguil'd,

The sports of children satisfy the child ;

Each nobler aim, repress'd by long controul,

Now sinks at last, or feebly mans the soul ;

While low delights, succeeding fast behind,

In happier meanness occupy the mind :

As in those domes, where Cæsars once bore sway,

Defac'd by time and tott'ring in decay,

There in the ruin, heedless of the dead,

The shelter-seeking peasant builds his shed ;

And, wondering man could want the larger pile,

Exults, and owns his cottage with a smile.

My soul turn from them, turn we to survey
Where rougher climes a nobler race display,
Where the bleak Swifs their stormy mansion tread,
And force a churlish soil for scanty bread ;
No product here the barren hills afford,
But man and steel, the soldier and his sword.
No vernal blooms their torpid rocks array,
But winter lingering chills the lap of May ;
No zephyr fondly sues the mountain's breast,
But meteors glare, and stormy glooms invest.

Yet

Yet still, even here, content can spread a charm,
Redress the clime, and all its rage disarm.
Though poor the peasant's hut, his feasts though small,
He sees his little lot the lot of all ;
Sees no contiguous palace rear its head
To shame the meanness of his humble shed ;
No costly lord the sumptuous banquet deal
To make him loath his vegetable meal ;
But calm, and bred in ignorance and toil,
Each with contracting, fits him to the soil.
Cheerful at morn, he wakes from short repose,
Breathes the keen air, and carols as he goes ;
With patient angle trolls the finny deep,
Or drives his vent'rous plough-share to the steep ;
Or seeks the den where snow-tracks mark the way,
And drags the struggling savage into day.
At night returning, every labour sped,
He fits him down the monarch of a shed ;
Smiles by his cheerful fire, and round surveys
His childrens' looks, that brighten at the blaze ;
While his lov'd partner, boastful of her hoard,
Displays her cleanly platter on the board :
And haply too some pilgrim, thither led,
With many a tale repays the nightly bed.

Thus every good his native wilds impart,
Imprints the patriot passion on his heart ;
And even those ills, that round his mansion rise,
Enhance the bliss his scanty fund supplies.

Dear

Dear is that shed to which his soul conforms,
And dear that hill which lifts him to the storms ;
And as a child, when scaring sounds molest,
Clings close and closer to the mother's breast,
So the loud torrent, and the whirlwind's roar,
But bind him to his native mountains more,

Such are the charms to barren states assign'd ;
Their wants but few, their wishes all confin'd.
Yet let them only share the praises due,
If few their wants, their pleasures are but few ;
For every want that stimulates the breast,
Becomes a source of pleasure when redrest.
Whence from such lands each pleasing science flies,
That first excites desire, and then supplies ;
Unknown to them, when sensual pleasures cloy,
To fill the languid pause with finer joy ;
Unknown those powers that raise the soul to flame,
Catch every nerve, and vibrate through the frame.
Their level life is but a mouldering fire,
Unquench'd by want, unfann'd by strong desire ;
Unfit for raptures, or, if raptures cheer
On some high festival of once a year,
In wild excess the vulgar breast takes fire,
Till, buried in debauch, the bliss expire.

But not their joys alone thus coarsely flow :
Their morals, like their pleasures, are but low,
For, as refinement stops, from fire to son
Unalter'd, unimprov'd the manners run ;

And

And love's and friendship's finely pointed dart
 Fall blunted from each indurated heart.
 Some sterner virtues o'er the mountain's breast
 May sit, like falcons cowering on the nest;
 But all the gentler morals, such as play
 Through life's more cultur'd walks, and charm the way,
 These far dispers'd, on timorous pinions fly,
 To sport and flutter in a kinder sky.

To kinder skies, where gentler manners reign,
 I turn; and France displays her bright domain.
 Gay sprightly land of mirth and social ease,
 Pleas'd with thyself, whom all the world can please,
 How often have I led thy sportive choir,
 With tuneless pipe, beside the murmuring Loire?
 Where shading elms along the margin grew,
 And freshen'd from the wave the zephyr flew;
 And haply, though my harsh touch falt'ring still,
 But mock'd all tune, and marr'd the dancer's skill;
 Yet would the village praise my wonderous power,
 And dance, forgetful of the noon-tide hour.
 Alike all ages. Dames of ancient days
 Have led their children through the mirthful maze,
 And the gay grandfire, skill'd in gestic lore,
 Has frisk'd beneath the burthen of threescore.

So blest a life these thoughtless realms display,
 Thus idly busy rolls their world away:

Theirs

Theirs are those arts that mind to mind endear,
For honour forms the social temper here.
Honour, that praise which real merit gains,
Or even imaginary worth obtains,
Here passes current; paid from hand to hand,
It shifts in splendid traffick round the land:
From courts, to camps, to cottages it strays,
And all are taught an avarice of praise;
They please, are pleas'd, they give to get esteem,
Till, seeming blest, they grow to what they seem.

But while this softer art their blifs supplies,
It gives their follies also room to rise;
For praise too dearly lov'd, or warmly sought,
Enfeebles all internal strength of thought.
And the weak soul, within itself unblest,
Leans for all pleasure on another's breast.
Hence ostentation here, with tawdry art,
Pants for the vulgar praise which fools impart;
Here vanity assumes her pert grimace,
And trims her robes of frize with copper lace;
Here beggar pride defrauds her daily cheer,
To boast one splendid banquet once a year;
The mind still turns where shifting fashion draws,
Nor weighs the solid worth of self applause.

To men of other minds my fancy flies,
Embosom'd in the deep where Holland lies.

Methinks

Methinks her patient sons before me stand,
 Where the broad ocean leans against the land,
 And, sedulous to stop the coming tide,
 Lift the tall rampire's artificial pride.
 Onward methinks, and diligently flow,
 The firm connected bulwark seems to grow ;
 Spreads its long arms amidst the watery roar,
 Scoops out an empire, and usurps the shore.
 While the pent ocean rising o'er the pile,
 Sees an amphibious world beneath him smile ;
 The slow canal, the yellow blossom'd vale,
 The willow tufted bank, the gliding fail,
 The crouded mart, the cultivated plain,
 A new creation rescu'd from his reign.

Thus, while around the wave-subjected soil
 Impels the native to repeated toil,
 Industrious habits in each bosom reign,
 And industry begets a love of gain.
 Hence all the good from opulence that springs,
 With all those ills superfluous treasure brings,
 Are here displayed. Their much-lov'd wealth imparts
 Convenience, plenty, elegance, and arts ;
 But view them closer, craft and fraud appear
 Even liberty itself is barter'd here.
 At gold's superior charms all freedom flies,
 The needy sell it, and the rich man buys ;
 A land of tyrants, and a den of slaves,
 Here wretches seek dishonourable graves,

And

And calmly bent, to servitude conform,
Dull as their lakes that slumber in the storm.

Heavens! how unlike their Belgic fires of old!
Rough, poor, content, ungovernably bold;
War in each breast, and freedom on each brow;
How much unlike the sons of Britain now!

Fir'd at the fount, my genius spreads her wing,
And flies where Britain courts the western spring;
Where lawns extend that scorn Arcadian pride,
And brighter streams than fam'd Hydaspis glide,
There all around the gentlest breezes stray,
There gentle music melts on every spray;
Creation's mildest charms are there combin'd,
Extremes are only in the master's mind!
Stern o'er each bosom Reason holds her state
With daring aims irregularly great;
Pride in their port, defiance in their eye,
I see the lords of human kind pass by;
Intent on high designs, a thoughtful band,
By forms unfashion'd fresh from Nature's hand;
Fierce in their native hardness of soul,
True to imagin'd right, above controul,
While even the peasant boasts these rights to scan,
And learns to venerate himself as man.

Thine, Freedom, thine the blessings pictur'd here,
Thine are those charms that dazzle and endear;

Too

Too blest indeed, were such without alloy,
 But foster'd even by Freedom ills annoy ;
 That independence Britons prize too high,
 Keeps man from man, and breaks the social tie ;
 The self-dependent lordlings stand alone,
 All claims that bind and sweeten life unknown ;
 Here by the bonds of nature feebly held,
 Minds combat minds, repelling and repell'd.
 Ferments arise, imprison'd factions roar,
 Represt ambition struggles round her shore,
 Till over-wrought, the general system feels
 Its motions stop, or phrenzy fire the wheels.

Nor this the worst. As nature's ties decay,
 As duty, love, and honour fail to sway,
 Fictitious bonds, the bonds of wealth and law,
 Still gather strength, and force unwilling awe.
 Hence all obedience bows to these alone,
 And talent sinks, and merit weeps unknown ;
 Till time may come, when, stript of all her charms,
 The land of scholars, and the nurse of arms,
 Where noble stems transmit the patriot flame,
 Where kings have toil'd, and poets wrote for fame,
 One sink of level avarice shall lie,
 And scholars, soldiers, kings, unhonour'd die.

Yet think not, thus when Freedom's ills I state,
 I mean to flatter kings, or court the great ;
 Ye powers of truth, that bid my soul aspire,
 Far from my bosom drive the low desire ;

And

And thou, fair Freedom, taught alike to feel
The rabble's rage, and tyrant's angry steel ;
Thou transitory flower, alike undone
By proud contempt, or favour's fostering fun,
Still may thy blooms the changeful clime endure,
I only would repress them to secure :
For just experience tells, in every foil,
That those who think must govern those that toil ;
And all that freedom's highest aims can reach,
Is but to lay proportion'd loads on each.
Hence, should one order disproportion'd grow,
Its double weight must ruin all below.

O then how blind to all that truth requires,
Who think it freedom when a part aspires !
Calm is my soul, nor apt to rise in arms,
Except when fast approaching danger warms :
But when contending chiefs blockade the throne,
Contracting regal power to stretch their own,
When I behold a factious band agree
To call it freedom when themselves are free ;
Each wanton judge new penal statutes draw,
Laws grind the poor, and rich men rule the law ;
The wealth of climes, where savage nations roam,
Pillag'd from slaves to purchase slaves at home ;
Fear, pity, justice, indignation start,
Tear off reserve, and bare my swelling heart ;
Till half a patriot, half a coward grown,
I fly from petty tyrants to the throne.

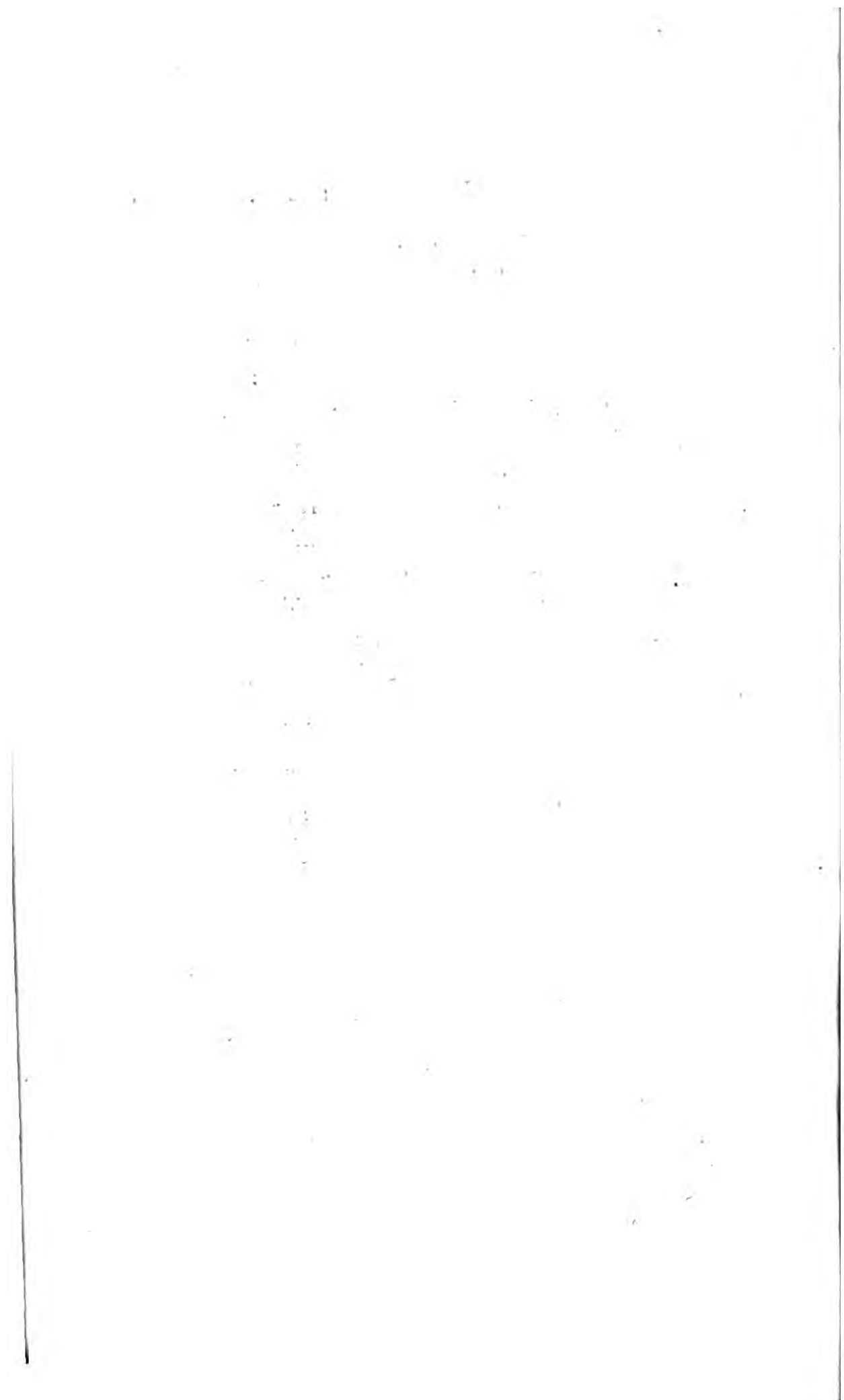
Yes, brother, curse with me that baleful hour,
 When first ambition struck at regal power ;
 And thus polluting honour in it's source,
 Gave wealth to sway the mind with double force,
 Have we not seen, round Britain's peopled shore,
 Her useful sons exchange'd for useless ore ?
 Seen all her triumphs but destruction haste,
 Like flaring tapers bright'ning as they waste ;
 Seen opulence, her grandeur to maintain,
 Lead stern depopulation in her train,
 And over fields where scatter'd hamlets rose,
 In barren solitary pomp repose ?
 Have we not seen at pleasure's lordly call,
 The smiling long-frequented village fall ?
 Beheld the duteous son, the sire decay'd,
 The modest matron, and the blushing maid,
 Forc'd from their homes, a melancholy train,
 To traverse climes beyond the western main ;
 Where wild Oswego spreads her swamps around,
 And Niagara stuns with thund'ring sound ?

Even now, perhaps, as there some pilgrim strays
 Through tangled forests, and through dangerous ways ;
 Where beasts with man divided empire claim,
 And the brown Indian marks with murd'rous aim ;
 There, while above the giddy tempest flies,
 And all around distressful yells arise,
 The pensive exile, bending with his woe,
 To stop too fearful, and too faint to go,

Cafts

Cafts a long look where England's glories fhine,
And bids his bofom fympathize with mine.

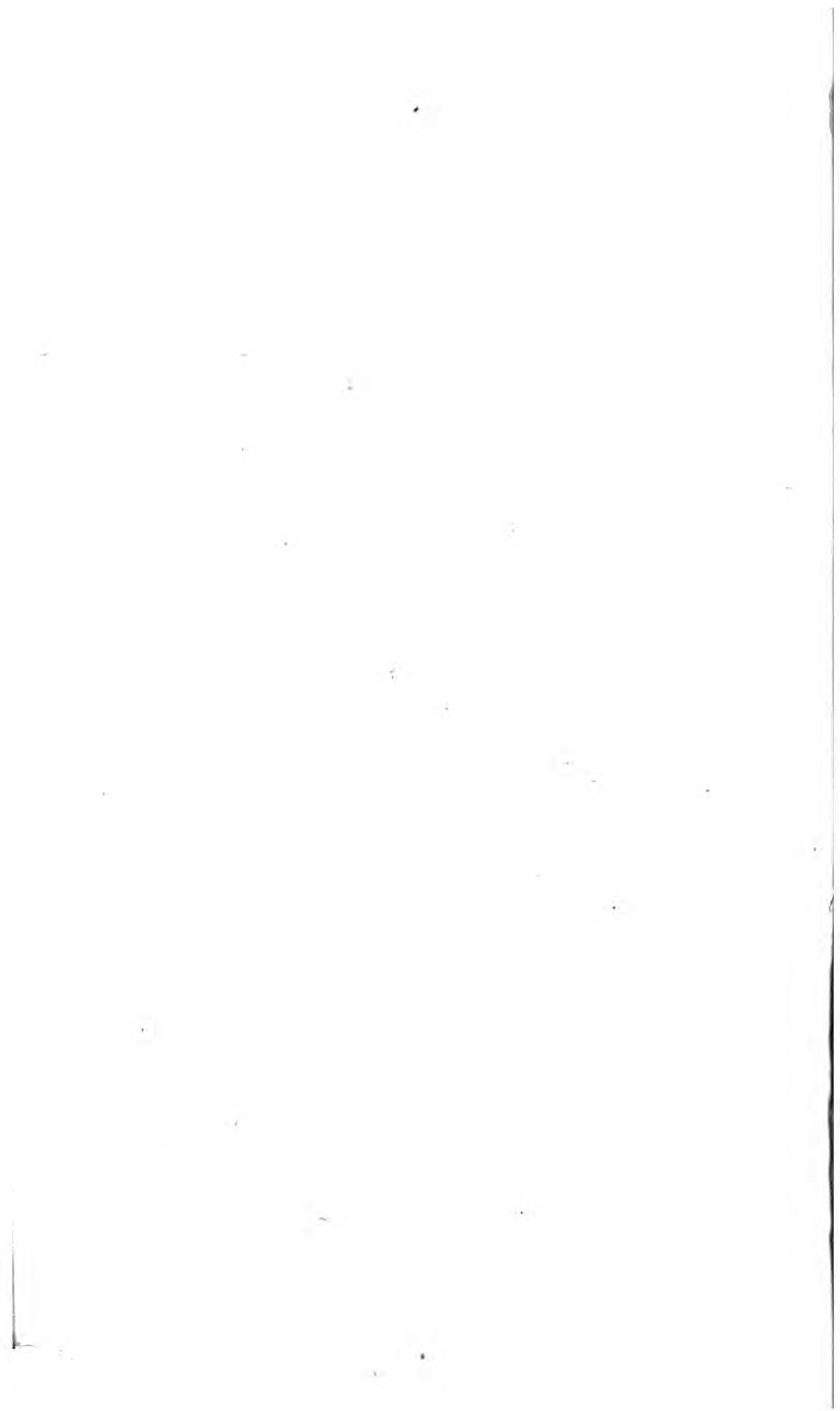
Vain, very vain, my weary fearch to find
That blifs which only centers in the mind :
Why have I ftray'd, from pleasure and refofe,
To feek a good each government beftows ?
In every government, though terrors reign,
Though tyrant kings, or tyrant laws refrain,
How fmall of all that human hearts endure,
That part which laws or kings can caufe or cure.
Still to ourfelves in every place confign'd,
Our own felicity we make or find :
With fecret courfe, which no loud ftorms annoy,
Glides the fmoth current of domeftic joy.
The lifted ax, the agonizing wheel,
Luke's iron crown, and Damien's bed of ftel,
To men remote from power but rarely known,
Leave reafon, faith, and confcience, all our own.



T H E
D E S E R T E D V I L L A G E .

A
P O E M .

F I R S T P R I N T E D I N M D C C L X I X .



T O

S I R J O S H U A R E Y N O L D S.

DEAR SIR,

I CAN have no expectations in an address of this kind, either to add to your reputation, or to establish my own. You can gain nothing from my admiration, as I am ignorant of that art in which you are said to excel; and I may lose much by the severity of your judgment, as few have a juster taste in poetry than you. Setting interest therefore aside, to which I never paid much attention, I must be indulged at present in following my affections. The only dedication I ever made was to my brother, because I loved him better than most other men. He is since dead. Permit me to inscribe this poem to you.

How far you may be pleased with the verification and meer mechanical parts of this attempt, I do not pretend to inquire; but I know you will object

(and indeed several of our best and wisest friends concur in the opinion) that the depopulation it deplores is no where to be seen, and the disorders it laments are only to be found in the poet's own imagination. To this I can scarce make any other answer than that I sincerely believe what I have written; that I have taken all possible pains, in my country excursions, for these four or five years past, to be certain of what I allege, and that all my views and inquiries have led me to believe those miseries real, which I here attempt to display. But this is not the place to enter into an inquiry, whether the country be depopulating, or not; the discussion would take up much room, and I should prove myself, at best, an indifferent politician, to tire the reader with a long preface, when I want his unfatigued attention to a long poem.

In regretting the depopulation of the country, I inveigh against the increase of our luxuries; and here also I expect the shout of modern politicians against me. For twenty or thirty years past, it has been the fashion to consider luxury as one of the greatest national advantages; and all the wisdom of antiquity in that particular, as erroneous. Still, however, I must remain a professed ancient on that head, and continue to think those luxuries prejudicial to states, by which so many vices are introduced, and so many kingdoms have been
undone.

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undone. Indeed so much has been poured out of late on the other side of the question, that, merely for the sake of novelty and variety, one would sometimes wish to be in the right. I am,

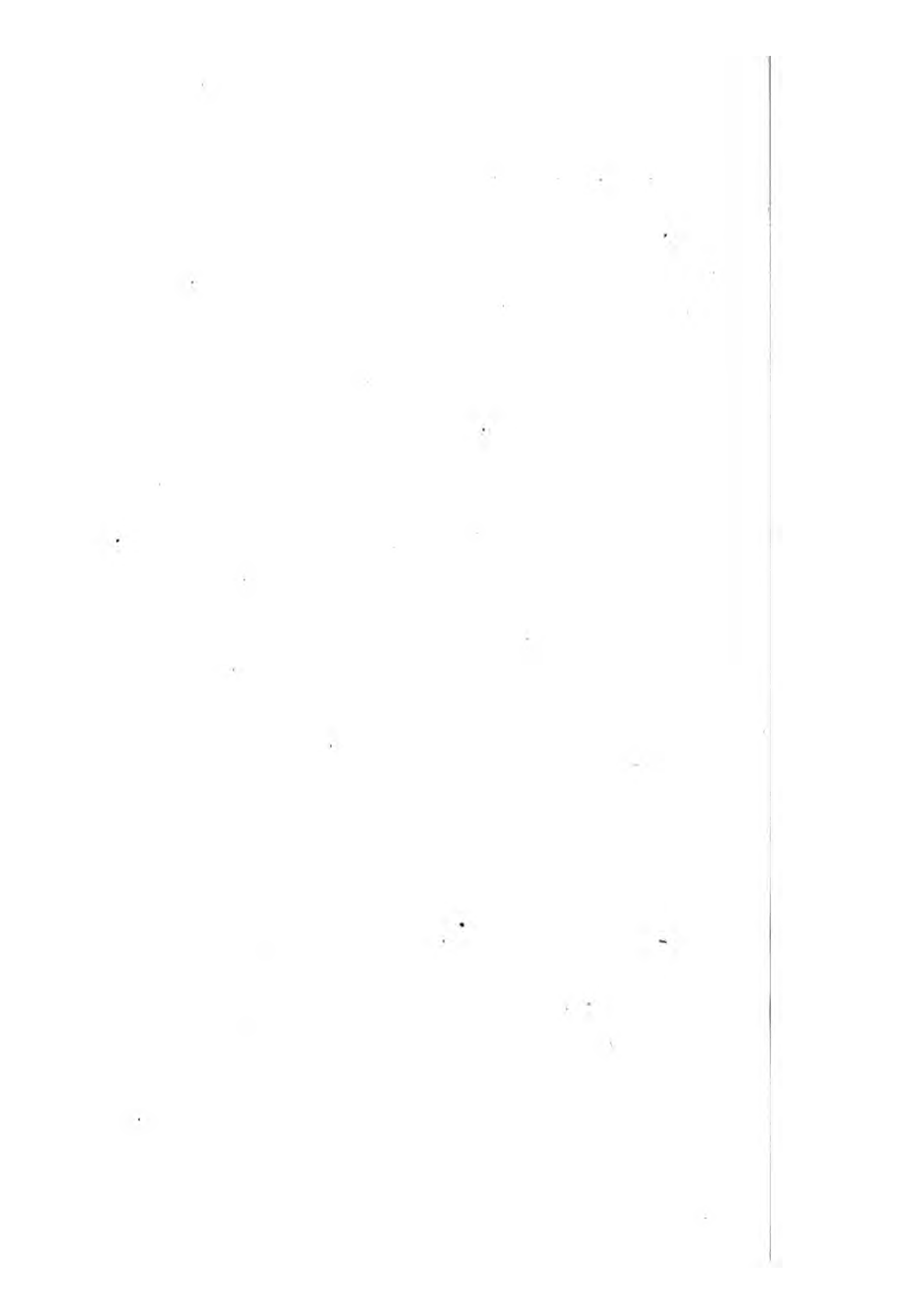
D E A R S I R,

Y O U R S I N C E R E F R I E N D,

A N D A R D E N T A D M I R E R,

O L I V E R G O L D S M I T H.

T H E



T H E

D E S E R T E D V I L L A G E .

SWEET AUBURN! loveliest village of the plain,
Where health and plenty cheer'd the labouring swain,
Where smiling spring its earliest visit paid,
And parting summer's ling'ring blooms delay'd.
Dear lovely bowers of innocence and ease,
Seats of my youth, when every sport could please,
How often have I loiter'd o'er thy green,
Where humble happiness endear'd each scene!
How often have I paus'd on every charm,
The shelter'd cot, the cultivated farm,
The never-failing brook, the busy mill,
The decent church that topt the neighb'ring hill,
The hawthorn bush, with seats beneath the shade,
For talking age and whisp'ring lovers made!
How often have I blest the coming day,
When toil remitting lent its turn to play,
And all the village train, from labour free,
Led up their sports beneath the spreading tree,
While many a pastime circled in the shade,
The young contending as the old survey'd;

And

60 THE DESERTED VILLAGE.

And many a gambol frolick'd o'er the ground,
 And sleights of art and feats of strength went round.
 And still as each repeated pleasure tir'd,
 Succeeding sports the mirthful band inspir'd ;
 The dancing pair that simply fought renown,
 By holding out, to tire each other down ;
 The swain mistrustless of his smutted face,
 While secret laughter titter'd round the place ;
 The bashful virgin's side-long looks of love,
 The matron's glance that would those looks reprove.
 These were thy charms, sweet village! sports like these,
 With sweet succession, taught ev'n toil to please ;
 These round thy bowers their chearful influence shed,
 These were thy charms—But all these charms are fled.

Sweet smiling village, loveliest of the lawn,
 Thy sports are fled, and all thy charms withdrawn ;
 Amidst thy bowers the tyrant's hand is seen,
 And desolation saddens all thy green :
 One only master grasps the whole domain,
 And half a tillage stints thy smiling plain ;
 No more thy glassy brook reflects the day,
 But, choak'd with sedges, works its weedy way ;
 Along thy glades, a solitary guest,
 The hollow founding bittern guards its nest ;
 Amidst thy desert walks the lapwing flies,
 And tires their echoes with unvary'd cries.
 Sunk are thy bowers in shapeless ruin all,
 And the long grass o'ertops the mould'ring wall,
And,

And, trembling, shrinking from the spoiler's hand,
Far, far away thy children leave the land.

Ill fares the land, to hast'ning ills a prey,
Where wealth accumulates, and men decay ;
Princes and lords may flourish, or may fade ;
A breath can make them, as a breath has made :
But a bold peasantry, their country's pride,
When once destroy'd, can never be supply'd.

A time there was, ere England's griefs began,
When every rood of ground maintain'd its man ;
For him light labour spread her wholesome store,
Just gave what life requir'd, but gave no more :
His best companions, innocence and health ;
And his best riches, ignorance of wealth.

But times are alter'd ; trade's unfeeling train
Usurp the land and dispossess the swain ;
Along the lawn, where scatter'd hamlets rose,
Unwieldy wealth, and cumb'rous pomp repose ;
And every want to luxury ally'd,
And every pang that folly pays to pride.
These gentle hours that plenty bade to bloom,
Those calm desires that ask'd but little room,
Those healthful sports that grac'd the peaceful scene,
Liv'd in each look, and brighten'd all the green ;
These, far departing, seek a kinder shore,
And rural mirth and manners are no more.

Sweet

Sweet AUBURN ! parent of the blifsful hour,
 Thy glades forlorn confefs the tyrant's power.
 Here, as I take my folitary rounds,
 Amidft thy tangling walks, and ruin'd grounds,
 And, many a year elaps'd, return to view
 Where once the cottage flood, the hawthorn grew,
 Remembrance wakes with all her bufy train,
 Swells at my breaft, and turns the paff to pain.

In all my wand'rings round this world of care,
 In all my griefs—and God has giv'n my share—
 I ftill had hopes my lateft hours to crown,
 Amidft thefe humble bowers to lay me down ;
 To husband out life's taper at the clofe,
 And keep the flame from wafting by refofe :
 I ftill had hopes, for pride attends us ftill,
 Amidft the fwains to fhew my book-learn'd ftill,
 Around my fire an evening group to draw,
 And tell of all I felt, and all I faw ;
 And, as an hare whom hounds and horns purfue,
 Pants to the place from whence at firft he flew,
 I ftill had hopes, my long vexations paff,
 Here to return—and die at home at laft.

O bleft retirement, friend to life's decline,
 Retreats from care, that never muft be mine,
 How bleft is he who crowns in fhades like thefe,
 A youth of labour with an age of eafe ;
 Who quits a world where ftiong temptations try,
 And, fince 'tis hard to combat, learns to fly !

For

For him no wretches, born to work and weep,
Explore the mine, or tempt the dang'rous deep ;
No furly porter stands in guilty state,
To spurn imploring famine from the gate ;
But on he moves to meet his latter end,
Angels around befriending virtue's friend ;
Sinks to the grave with unperceiv'd decay,
While resignation gently slopes the way ;
And, all his prospects bright'ning to the last,
His Heaven commences ere the world be past !

Sweet was the sound, when oft at ev'ning's close,
Up yonder hill the village murmur rose ;
There, as I past with carelefs steps and slow,
The mingling notes came soften'd from below ;
The swain responsive as the milk-maid sung,
The sober herd that low'd to meet their young ;
The noisy geese that gabbled o'er the pool,
The playful children just let loose from school ;
The watch-dog's voice that bay'd the whisp'ring wind,
And the loud laugh that spoke the vacant mind ;
These all in sweet confusion sought the shade,
And fill'd each pause the nightingale had made.
But now the sounds of population fail,
No cheerful murmurs fluctuate in the gale,
No busy steps the grafs-grown foot-way tread,
But all the bloomy flush of life is fled.
All but yon widow'd, solitary thing,
That feebly bends beside the plashy spring ;

She,

She, wretched matron, forc'd, in age, for bread,
 To strip the brook with mantling cresses spread,
 To pick her wintry faggot from the thorn,
 To seek her nightly shed, and weep till morn ;
 She only left of all the harmless train,
 The sad historian of the pensive plain.

Near yonder copse, where once the garden smil'd,
 And still where many a garden flower grows wild ;
 There, where a few torn shrubs the place disclose,
 The village preacher's modest mansion rose.
 A man he was, to all the country dear,
 And passing rich with forty pounds a year ;
 Remote from towns he ran his godly race,
 Nor ere had chang'd, nor wish'd to change his place ;
 Unskillful he to fawn, or seek for power,
 By doctrines fashion'd to the varying hour ;
 Far other aims his heart had learn'd to prize,
 More bent to raise the wretched than to rise.
 His house was known to all the vagrant train,
 He chid their wand'rings, but reliev'd their pain,
 The long-remember'd beggar was his guest,
 Whose beard descending swept his aged breast ;
 The ruin'd spendthrift, now no longer proud,
 Claim'd kindred there, and had his claims allow'd ;
 The broken foldier, kindly bade to stay,
 Sate by his fire, and talk'd the night away ;
 Wept o'er his wounds, or tales of sorrow done,
 Shoulder'd his crutch, and shew'd how fields were won.
 Pleas'd

Pleas'd with his guests, the good man learn'd to glow,
 And quite forgot their vices in their woe ;
 Careless their merits, or their faults to scan,
 His pity gave ere charity began.

Thus to relieve the wretched was his pride,
 And even his failings lean'd to Virtue's side ;
 But in his duty prompt at every call,
 He watch'd and wept, he pray'd and felt, for all.
 And, as a bird each fond endearment tries,
 To tempt its new-fledg'd offspring to the skies ;
 He tried each art, reprov'd each dull delay,
 Allur'd to brighter worlds, and led the way.

Beside the bed where parting life was laid,
 And sorrow, guilt, and pain, by turns dismay'd,
 The rev'rend champion stood. At his controul,
 Despair and anguish fled the struggling soul ;
 Comfort came down the trembling wretch to raise,
 And his last fault'ring accents whisper'd praise.

At church, with meek and unaffected grace,
 His looks adorn'd the venerable place ;
 Truth from his lips prevail'd with double sway,
 And fools, who came to scoff, remain'd to pray.
 The service past, around the pious man,
 With ready zeal, each honest rustic ran ;
 Even children follow'd with endearing wile,
 And pluck'd his gown, to share the good man's smile.

His ready smile a parent's warmth express,
 Their welfare pleas'd him, and their cares distress;
 To them his heart, his love, his griefs were given,
 But all his serious thoughts had rest in heaven.
 As some tall cliff that lifts its awful form,
 Swells from the vale, and midway leaves the storm,
 Though round its breast the rolling clouds are spread,
 Eternal sunshine settles on its head.

Beside yon straggling fence that skirts the way,
 With blossom'd furze unprofitably gay,
 There, in his noisy mansion, skill'd to rule,
 The village master taught his little school;
 A man severe he was, and stern to view,
 I knew him well, and every truant knew;
 Well had the boding tremblers learn'd to trace
 The day's disasters in his morning face;
 Full well they laugh'd with counterfeited glee
 At all his jokes, for many a joke had he;
 Full well the busy whisper circling round,
 Convey'd the dismal tidings when he frown'd;
 Yet he was kind, or if severe in aught,
 The love he bore to learning was in fault;
 The village all declar'd how much he knew;
 'Twas certain he could write, and cypher too;
 Lands he could measure, terms and tides prefage,
 And even the story ran that he could gauge:
 In arguing too, the parson own'd his skill,
 For even though vanquish'd, he could argue still;
 While

THE DESERTED VILLAGE. 67

While words of learned length, and thund'ring sound,
Amaz'd the gazing rustics rang'd around,
And still they gaz'd, and still the wonder grew,
That one small head could carry all he knew.

But past is all his fame. The very spot
Where many a time he triumph'd, is forgot.
Near yonder thorn, that lifts its head on high,
Where once the sign-post caught the passing eye,
Low lies that house where nut-brown draughts inspir'd,
Where grey-beard mirth, and smiling toil retir'd,
Where village statesmen talk'd with looks profound,
And news much older than their ale went round.
Imagination fondly stoops to trace
The parlour splendors of that festive place ;
The white-wash'd wall, the nicely sanded floor,
The varnish'd clock that click'd behind the door ;
The chest contriv'd a double debt to pay,
A bed by night, a chest of drawers by day ;
The pictures plac'd for ornament and use,
The twelve good rules, the royal game of goose ;
The hearth, except when winter chill'd the day,
With aspen boughs, and flowers and fennel gay,
While broken tea-cups, wisely kept for shew,
Rang'd o'er the chimney, glisten'd in a row.

Vain transitory splendor ! could not all
Reprieve the tott'ring mansion from it's fall !
Obscure it sinks, nor shall it more impart
An hour's importance to the poor man's heart ;

Thither no more the peasant shall repair,
 To sweet oblivion of his daily care ;
 No more the farmer's news, the barber's tale,
 No more the wood-man's ballad shall prevail ;
 No more the smith his dusky brow shall clear,
 Relax his pond'rous strength, and lean to hear ;
 The host himself no longer shall be found
 Careful to see the mantling blifs go round ;
 Nor the coy maid, half willing to be prest,
 Shall kiss the cup to pass it to the rest.

Yes ! let the rich deride, the proud disdain,
 These simple blessings of the lowly train,
 To me more dear, congenial to my heart,
 One native charm, than all the glosses of art ;
 Spontaneous joys, where Nature has its play,
 The soul adopts, and owns their first-born sway :
 Lightly they frolic o'er the vacant mind,
 Unenvy'd, unmolested, unconfin'd.
 But the long pomp, the midnight masquerade,
 With all the freaks of wanton wealth array'd,
 In these, ere triflers half their wish obtain,
 The toiling pleasure sickens into pain ;
 And, even while fashion's brightest arts decoy,
 The heart distrustful asks, if this be joy ?

Ye friends to truth, ye statesmen who survey
 The rich man's joys encrease, the poor's decay,
 'Tis yours to judge, how wide the limits stand
 Between a splendid and an happy land.

Proud

Proud swells the tide with loads of freighted ore,
 And shouting Folly hails them from her shore ;
 Hoards, even beyond the miser's wish abound,
 And rich men flock from all the world around.
 Yet count our gains. This wealth is but a name
 That leaves our useful product still the same.
 Not so the loss. The man of wealth and pride,
 Takes up a space that many poor supply'd ;
 Space for his lake, his park's extended bounds,
 Space for his horses, equipage and hounds ;
 The robe that wraps his limbs in filken sloth,
 Has robb'd the neighbouring fields of half their growth,
 His feat, where solitary sports are seen,
 Indignant spurns the cottage from the green ;
 Around the world each needful product flies,
 For all the luxuries the world supplies.
 While thus the land adorn'd for pleasure all
 In barren splendor feebly waits the fall.



As some fair female unadorn'd and plain,
 Secure to please while youth confirms her reign.
 Slights every borrow'd charm that dress supplies,
 Nor shares with art the triumph of her eyes :
 But when those charms are past, for charms are frail,
 When time advances, and when lovers fail,
 She then shines forth, solicitous to bless,
 In all the glaring impotence of dress.
 Thus fares the land, by luxury betray'd,
 In nature's simplest charms at first array'd,

But verging to decline, its splendors rise,
 Its vistas strike, its palaces surprize ;
 While, scourg'd by famine from the smiling land,
 The mournful peasant leads his humble band ;
 And while he sinks, without one arm to save,
 The country blooms—a garden, and a grave.

Where then, ah ! where shall poverty reside,
 To 'scape the pressure of contiguous pride ?
 If to some common's fenceless limits stray'd,
 He drives his flock to pick the scanty blade,
 Those fenceless fields the sons of wealth divide,
 And even the bare-worn common is deny'd.

If to the city sped—What waits him there ?
 To see profusion that he must not share ;
 To see ten thousand baneful arts combin'd
 To pamper luxury, and thin mankind ;
 To see each joy the sons of pleasure know,
 Extorted from his fellow-creature's woe.
 Here, while the courtier glitters in brocade,
 There the pale artist plies the sickly trade ;
 Here, while the proud their long-drawn pomps display,
 There the black gibbet glooms beside the way.
 The dome where Pleasure holds her midnight reign,
 Here, richly deckt, admits the gorgeous train ;
 Tumultuous grandeur crouds the blazing square,
 The rattling chariots clash, the torches glare.
 Sure scenes like these no troubles ere annoy !
 Sure these denote one universal joy !

Are

Are these thy serious thoughts—Ah, turn thine eyes
 Where the poor houseless shiv'ring female lies.
 She once, perhaps, in village plenty blest,
 Has wept at tales of innocence distressed ;
 Her modest looks the cottage might adorn,
 Sweet as the primrose peeps beneath the thorn ;
 Now lost to all ; her friends, her virtue fled,
 Near her betrayer's door she lays her head,
 And, pinch'd with cold, and shrinking from the shower,
 With heavy heart deplores that luckless hour,
 When idly first, ambitious of the town,
 She left her wheel and robes of country brown.

Do thine, sweet AUBURN, thine, the loveliest train,
 Do thy fair tribes participate her pain ?
 Even now, perhaps, by cold and hunger led,
 At proud mens doors they ask a little bread !

Ah, no. To distant climes, a dreary scene,
 Where half the convex world intrudes between,
 Through torrid tracts with fainting steps they go,
 Where wild Altama murmurs to their woe.
 Far different there from all that charm'd before,
 The various terrors of that horrid shore ;
 Those blazing suns that dart a downward ray,
 And fiercely shed intolerable day ;
 Those matted woods where birds forget to sing,
 But silent bats in drowsy clusters cling ;
 Those pois'nous fields with rank luxuriance crown'd,
 Where the dark scorpion gathers death round ;

Where at each step the stranger fears to wake
 The rattling terrors of the vengeful snake ;
 Where crouching tigers wait their hapless prey,
 And savage men more murd'rous still than they ;
 While oft in whirls the mad tornado flies,
 Mingling the ravag'd landscape with the skies.
 Far different these from every former scene,
 The cooling brook, the grassy vested green,
 The breezy covert of the warbling grove,
 That only shelter'd thefts of harmless love.

Good Heaven ! what sorrows gloom'd that parting day,
 That call'd them from their native walks away ;
 When the poor exiles, every pleasure past,
 Hung round the bowers, and fondly look'd their last,
 And took a long farewell, and wish'd in vain
 For seats like these beyond the western main ;
 And shudd'ring still to face the distant deep,
 Return'd and wept, and still return'd to weep.
 The good old fire, the first prepar'd to go
 To new-found worlds, and wept for other's woe ;
 But for himself, in conscious virtue brave,
 He only wish'd for worlds beyond the grave,
 His lovely daughter, lovelier in her tears,
 The fond companion of his helpless years,
 Silent went next, neglectful of her charms,
 And left a lover's for a father's arms.
 With louder plaints the mother spoke her woes,
 And blest the cot where every pleasure rose ;

And

And kist her thoughtless babes with many a tear,
And claspt them close, in sorrow doubly dear;
Whilst her fond husband strove to lend relief
In all the silent manliness of grief.

O, luxury! thou curst by heaven's decree,
How ill exchange'd are things like these for thee!
How do thy potions with insidious joy,
Diffuse their pleasures only to destroy!
Kingdoms by thee, to sickly greatness grown,
Boast of a florid vigour not their own.
At every draught more large and large they grow,
A bloated mass of rank unwieldy woe;
Till sapp'd their strength, and every part unsound,
Down, down they sink, and spread a ruin round.

Even now the devastation is begun,
And half the business of destruction done;
Even now, methinks, as pond'ring here I stand,
I see the rural virtues leave the land.
Down where yon anchoring vessel spreads the sail
That idly waiting flaps with every gale,
Downward they move, a melancholy band,
Pass from the shore, and darken all the strand.
Contented toil, and hospitable care,
And kind connubial tenderness, are there;
And piety with wishes plac'd above,
And steady loyalty, and faithful love.
And thou, sweet Poetry, thou loveliest maid,
Still first to fly where sensual joys invade;

Unfit in these degen'rate times of shame,
 To catch the heart, or strike for honest fame ;
 Dear charming nymph, neglected and decry'd,
 My shame in crouds, my solitary pride.
 Thou source of all my blifs, and all my woe,
 That found'ft me poor at first, and keep'ft me fo ;
 Thou guide, by which the nobler arts excel,
 Thou nurse of every virtue, fare thee well,
 Farewel, and O ! where'er thy voice be try'd,
 On Torno's cliffs, or Pambamarca's fide,
 Whether where equinoctial fervours glow,
 Or winter wraps the polar world in snow,
 Still let thy voice, prevailing over time,
 Redrefs the rigours of th' inclement clime ;
 Aid slighted truth, with thy perfuafive strain ;
 Teach erring man to spurn the rage of gain ;
 Teach him, that states of native strength poffeft,
 Though very poor, may still be very blest ;
 That trade's proud empire haftes to swift decay,
 As ocean fweeps the labour'd mole away ;
 While self-dependent power can time defy,
 As rocks refift the billows and the fky.

T H E
G I F T.
T O
I R I S,
I N

BOW-STREET, COVENT-GARDEN.

SAY, cruel Iris, pretty rake,
Dear mercenary beauty,
What annual off'ring shall I make
Expressive of my duty?

My heart, a victim to thine eyes,
Should I at once deliver,
Say, would the angry fair-one prize
The gift, who flights the giver?

A bill, a jewel, watch, or toy,
My rivals give—and let 'em.
If gems, or gold, import a joy,
I'll give them—when I get 'em.

I'll

I'll give—but not the full-blown rose,
Or rose-bud more in fashion ;
Such short-liv'd off'rings but disclose
A transitory passion.

I'll give thee something yet unpaid,
Not less sincere, than civil :
I'll give thee—ah ! too charming maid,
I'll give thee—to the devil.

E P I T A P H

O N

D R. P A R N E L.

THIS tomb inscribed to gentle PARNEL's name,
May speak our gratitude, but not his fame.
What heart but feels his sweetly-moral lay,
That leads to truth through pleasure's flowery way?
Celestial themes confess'd his tuneful aid;
And heaven, that lent him genius, was repaid.
Needless to him the tribute we bestow,
The transitory breath of fame below:
More lasting rapture from his works shall rise,
While converts thank their poet in the skies.

E P I-

E P I L O G U E

TO THE COMEDY OF THE

S I S T E R S.

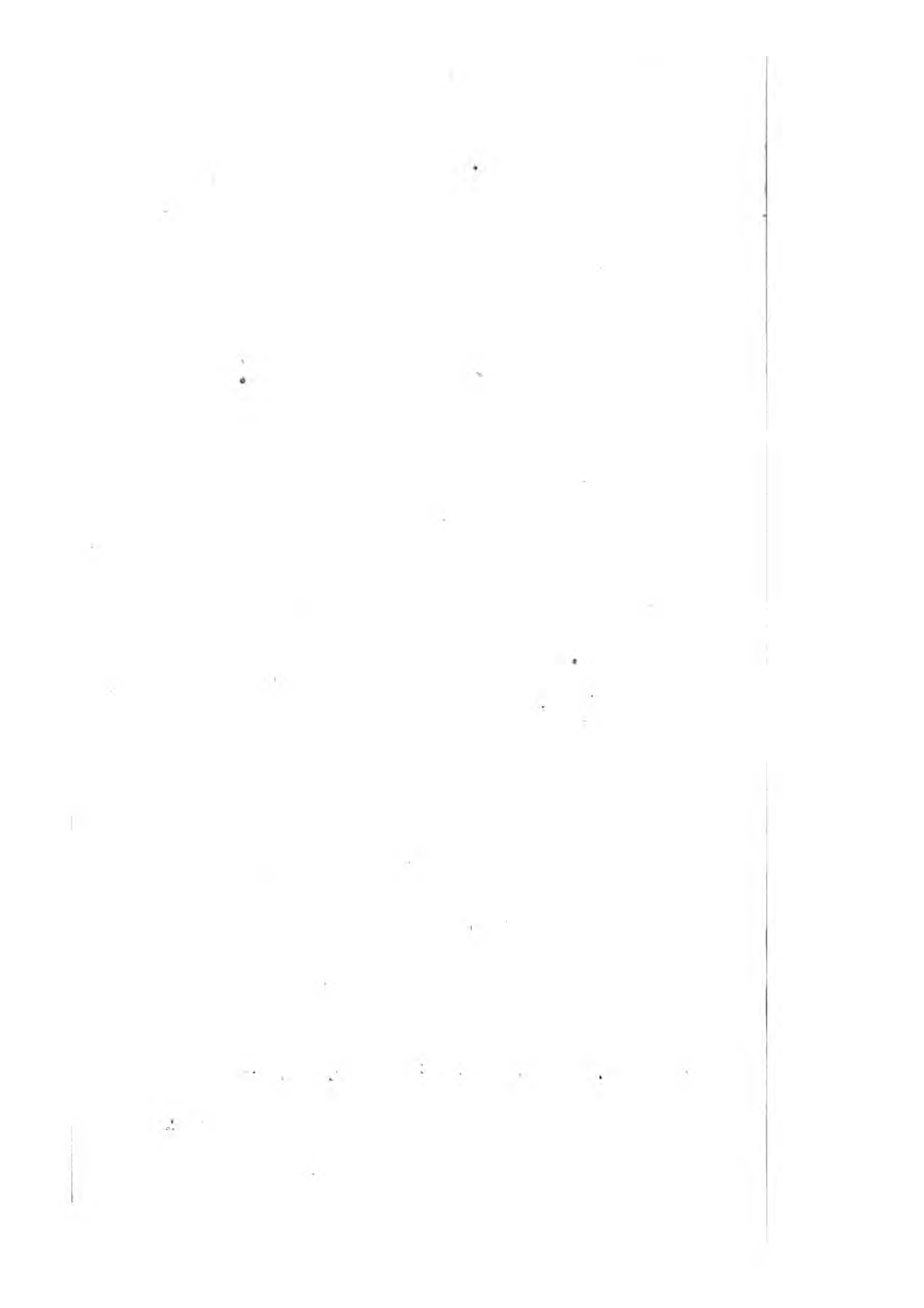
WHAT? five long acts—and all to make us wiser!
 Our authorefs sure has wanted an advifer.
 Had she consulted me, she should have made
 Her moral play a speaking masquerade;
 Warm'd up each bustling scene, and in her rage
 Have emptied all the green-room on the stage.
 My life on't, this had kept her play from sinking;
 Have pleas'd our eyes, and sav'd the pain of thinking.
 Well, since she thus has shewn her want of skill,
 What if I give a masquerade?—I will.
 But how? ay, there's the rub! [*pausing*—I've got my
 cue:
 The world's a masquerade! the masquers, you, you,
 you. [*To Boxes, Pit, and Gallery.*
 Lud! what a group the motley scene discloses!
 False wits, false wives, false virgins, and false spouses!
 Statesmen with bridles on; and, close beside 'em,
 Patriots in party-colour'd suits that ride 'em.

There

There Hebes, turn'd of fifty, try once more
 To raise a flame in Cupids of threescore.
 These in their turn, with appetites as keen,
 Deserting fifty, fasten on fifteen.
 Miss, not yet full fifteen, with fire uncommon,
 Flings down her sampler, and takes up the woman :
 The little urchin smiles, and spreads her lure,
 And tries to kill, ere she's got power to cure,
 Thus 'tis with all—their chief and constant care
 Is to seem every thing—but what they are.
 Yon broad, bold, angry spark, I fix my eye on,
 Who seems t' have robb'd his vizor from the lion ;
 Who frowns, and talks, and swears, with round parade,
 Looking, as who should say, dam'me ! who's afraid ?

[*Mimicking.*

Strip but this vizor off, and sure I am
 You'll find his lionship a very lamb.
 Yon politician, famous in debate,
 Perhaps, to vulgar eyes, bestrides the state ;
 Yet, when he deigns his real shape t' assume,
 He turns old woman, and bestrides a broom.
 Yon patriot, too, who presses on your fight,
 And seems to every gazer, all in white,
 If with a bribe his candour you attack,
 He bows, turns round, and whip—the man is black !
 Yon critic, too—but whither do I run ?
 If I proceed, our bard will be undone !
 Well then a truce, since she requests it too :
 Do you spare her, and I'll for once spare you.



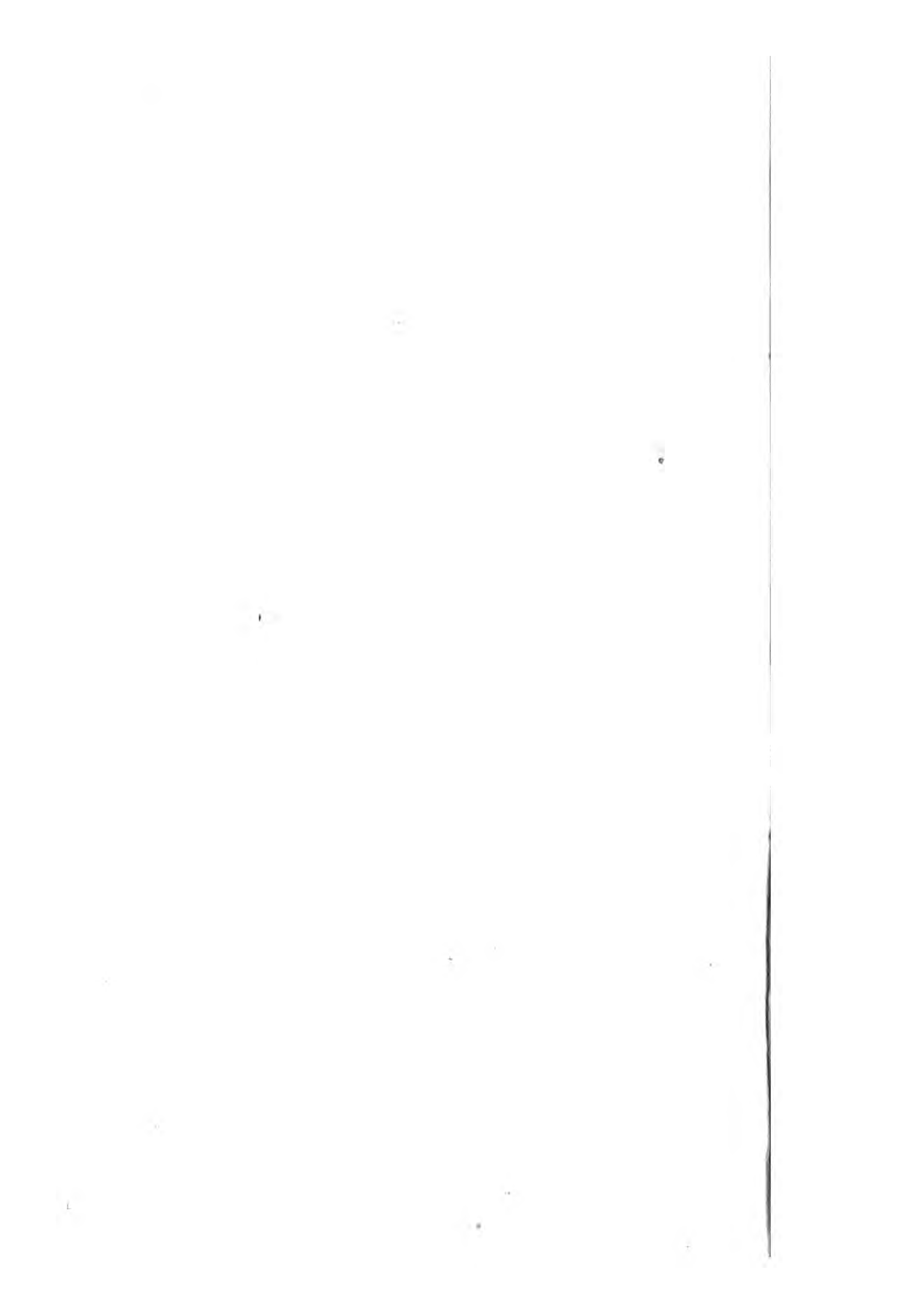
T H E
H A U N C H O F V E N I S O N ,
A
P O E T I C A L E P I S T L E ,
T O
L O R D C L A R E .

F I R S T P R I N T E D I N M D C C L X V .

V O L . I .

G

T H E



T H E
 H A U N C H O F V E N I S O N,
 A
 P O E T I C A L E P I S T L E,
 T O
 L O R D C L A R E.

THANKS, my lord, for your venison, for finer or
 fatter
 Never rang'd in a forest, or smoak'd in a platter;
 The haunch was a picture for painters to study,
 The fat was so white, and the lean was so ruddy;
 Though my stomach was sharp, I could scarce help re-
 gretting,
 To spoil such a delicate picture by eating;
 I had thoughts, in my chambers, to place it in view,
 To be shewn to my friends as a piece of virtu;
 As in some Irish houses, where things are so so,
 One gammon of bacon hangs up for a show:

But, for eating a rasher of what they take pride in,
 They'd as soon think of eating the pan it is fry'd in.
 But hold—let me pause—don't I hear you pronounce,
 This tale of the bacon's a damnable bounce ;
 Well, suppose it a bounce—sure a poet may try,
 By a bounce now and then, to get courage to fly.

But, my lord, it's no bounce: I protest in my turn,
 It's a truth—and your lordship may ask Mr. Burn.*
 To go on with my tale—as I gaz'd on the haunch ;
 I thought of a friend that was trusty and staunch,
 So I cut it, and sent it to Reynolds undrest,
 To paint it, or eat it, just as he lik'd best,
 Of the neck and the breast I had next to dispose ;
 'Twas a neck and a breast that might rival Monroe's :
 But in parting with these I was puzzled again,
 With the how, and the who, and the where, and the
 when.

There's H—d, and C—y, and H—rth, and H—ff,
 I think they love venison—I know they love beef.
 There's my countryman Higgins—Oh! let him alone,
 For making a blunder, or picking a bone.
 But hang it—to poets who seldom can eat,
 Your very good mutton's a very good treat ;
 Such dainties to them their health it might hurt,
 It's like sending them ruffles, when wanting a shirt.

* Lord Clare's nephew.

While thus I debated, in reverie center'd,
 An acquaintance, a friend as he call'd himself, enter'd ;
 An under-bred, fine-spoken fellow was he,
 And he smil'd as he look'd at the venison and me.
 " What have we got here ?—Why this is good eating !
 Your own I suppose—or is it in waiting ?"
 " Why whose should it be ? cried I with a founce,
 I get these things often ;—but that was a bounce :
 Some lords, my acquaintance, that settle the nation,
 Are pleas'd to be kind---but I hate ostentation."

" If that be the case then, cried he, very gay,
 I'm glad I have taken this house in my way.
 To-morrow you take a poor dinner with me ;
 No words—I insist on't—precisely at *three* :
 We'll have Johnson, and Burke, all the wits will be
 there ;
 My acquaintance is slight, or I'd ask my lord Clare.
 And, now that I think on't, as I am a finner !
 We wanted this venison to make out the dinner.
 What say you—a pasty, it shall, and it must,
 And my wife, little Kitty, is famous for crust.
 Here, porter—this venison with me to Mile-end ;
 No stirring—I beg—my dear friend—my dear friend !"
 Thus snatching his hat, he brusht off like the wind,
 And the porter and eatables follow'd behind.

Left alone to reflect, having emptied my shelf,
 And "nobody with me at sea but myself;" *
 Tho' I could not help thinking my gentleman hasty,
 Yet Johnson, and Burke, and a good venison pasty,
 Were things that I never disliked in my life,
 Though clogg'd with a coxcomb, and Kitty his wife.
 So next day in due splendour to make my approach,
 I drove to his door in my own hackney-coach.

When come to the place where we all were to dine,
 (A chair-lumber'd closet just twelve feet by nine :)
 My friend bade me welcome, but struck me quite
 dumb,
 With tidings that Johnson, and Burke would not
 come ;
 "For I knew it," he cried, "both eternally fail,
 The one with his speeches, and t'other with Thrals;
 But no matter, I'll warrant we'll make up the party,
 With two full as clever, and ten times as hearty.
 The one is a Scotchman, the other a Jew,
 They both of them merry, and authors like you ;
 The one writes the Snarler, the other the Scourge ;
 Some thinks he writes Cinna---he owns to Panurge."
 While thus he described them by trade and by name,
 They enter'd, and dinner was serv'd as they came.

At the top a fried liver, and bacon were seen,
 At the bottom was tripe, in a swinging tureen ;

* See the letters that passed between his royal highness
 Henry duke of Cumberland, and lady Grosvenor—12°. 1769.

At the fides there was spinnage and pudding made
hot ;

In the middle a place where the pasty---was not.

Now, my lord, as for tripe it's my utter averfion,

And your bacon I hate like a Turk or a Perfian,

So there I fat ftuck, like a horfe in a pound,

While the bacon and liver went merrily round :

But what vex'd me moft, was that d——'d Scottifh
rogue,

With his long-winded fpeeches, his fmiles and his
brogue,

And, “ madam, quoth he, may this bit be my poifon,
A prettier dinner I never fet eyes on ;

Pray a flice of your liver, though may I be curft,

But I've eat of your tripe, till I'm ready to burft.”

“ The tripe, quoth the Jew, with his chocolate cheek,
I could dine on this tripe feven days in the week :

I like thefe here dinners fo pretty and fmall ;

But your friend there, the doctör, eats nothing at all.”

“ O—oh! quoth my friend, he'll come on in a trice,
He's keeping a corner for fomething that's nice :

There's a pasty”—“ a pasty ! repeated the Jew ;

I don't care, if I keep a corner for't too.”

“ What the de'il, mon, a pasty ! re-echo'd the Scot ;

Though fplitting, I'll ftill keep a corner for that.”

“ We'll all keep a corner, the lady cried out ;”

“ We'll all keep a corner was echo'd about.”

While thus we refolv'd, and the pasty delay'd,

With looks that quite petrified, enter'd the maid ;

A visage so sad, and so pale with affright,
Wak'd Priam in drawing his curtains by night.
But we quickly found out, for who could mistake her?
That she came with some terrible news from the baker:
And so it fell out, for that negligent floven,
Had shut out the pasty on shutting his oven.
Sad Philomel thus—but let similies drop—
And now that I think on't, the story may stop.
To be plain, my good lord, it's but labour misplac'd,
To send such good verses to one of your taste;
You've got an odd something—a kind of discerning—
A relish—a taste—sicken'd over by learning;
At least, it's your temper, as very well known,
That you think very slightly of all that's your own:
So, perhaps, in your habits of thinking amiss,
You may make a mistake, and think slightly of this.

FROM THE
O R A T O R I O
OF THE
C A P T I V I T Y.
S O N G.

THE wretch condemn'd with life to part,
Still, still on hope relies ;
And ev'ry pang that rends the heart,
Bids expectation rise.

Hope, like the glimm'ring taper's light,
Adorns and cheers the way ;
And still, as darker grows the night,
Emits a brighter ray.

S O N G.

S O N G.

O Memory! thou fond deceiver,
Still importunate and vain,
To former joys, recurring ever,
And turning all the past to pain;

Thou, like the world, the oppress'd oppressing,
Thy smiles increase the wretch's woe?
And he who wants each other blessing,
In thee must ever find a foe.

T H E
C L O W N ' S R E P L Y.

JOHN TROTT was desired by two witty peers,
To tell them the reason why asses had ears ?

“ An’t please you,” quoth John, “ I’m not given
“ to letters,

“ Nor dare I pretend to know more than my bet-
“ ters,

“ Howe’er from this time I shall ne’er see your
“ graces,

“ As I hope to be fav’d! without thinking on asses.”

Edinburgh, 1753.

E P I T A P H

O N

E D W A R D P U R D O N . *

HERE lies poor NED PURDON, from misery
freed,
Who long was a bookfeller's hack ;
He led such a damnable life in this world,—
I don't think he'll wish to come back.

* This gentleman was educated at Trinity College, Dublin ; but having wasted his patrimony, he enlisted as a foot soldier. Growing tired of that employment, he obtained his discharge, and became a scribbler in the newspapers. He translated Voltaire's HENRIADE.

E L E -

A N
E L E G Y
O N T H E
G L O R Y O F H E R S E X,
M R S. M A R Y B L A I Z E.

GOOD people all, with one accord,
Lament for madam Blaize,
Who never wanted a good word—
From those who spoke her praise.

The needy feldom pass'd her door,
And always found her kind;
She freely lent to all the poor,—
Who left a pledge behind.

She strove the neighbourhood to please,
With manners wond'rous winning;
And never follow'd wicked ways,
Unless when she was finning.

At

At church, in filks and fatins new,
With hoop of monstrous size ;
She never slumber'd in her pew,—
But when she shut her eyes.

Her love was fought, I do aver,
By twenty beaux and more ;
The king himself has follow'd her,—
When she has walk'd before.

But now her wealth and finery fled,
Her hangers-on cut short all ;
The doctors found, when she was dead,—
Her last disorder mortal.

Let us lament, in sorrow fore,
For Kent-street well may say,
That had she lived a twelvemonth more,—
She had not dy'd to-day.

R E T A L I A T I O N :

A

P O E M.

FIRST PRINTED IN M D C C L X X I V .

AFTER THE AUTHOR'S DEATH.

Dr. Goldsmith and some of his friends occasionally dined at the St. James's Coffee-house—One day it was proposed to write epitaphs on him. His country, dialect, and person, furnished subjects of witticism. He was called on for RETALIATION, and at their next meeting, produced the following poem.

R E T A L I A T I O N :

A

P O E M.

OF old, when Scarron his companions invited,
 Each guest brought his dish, and the feast was united.
 If our * landlord supplies us with beef, and with fish,
 Let each guest bring himself, and he brings the best
 dish :

Our † dean shall be venison, just fresh from the plains;
 Our ‡ Burke shall be tongue, with a garnish of brains;
 Our § Will shall be wild fowl, of excellent flavour,
 And || Dick with his pepper shall heighten their favour :

* The master of the St. James's coffee-house, where the doctor, and the friends he has characterized in this poem, occasionally dined.

† Doctor Barnard, dean of Derry in Ireland.

‡ Mr. Edmund Burke.

§ Mr. William Burke, late secretary to general Conway, and member for Bedwin.

|| Mr. Richard Burke, collector of Granada.

Our * Cumberland's sweet-bread its place shall obtain,
 And † Douglas is pudding, substantial and plain :
 Our ‡ Garrick's a fallad ; for in him we see
 Oil, vinegar, sugar, and saltness agree :
 To make out the dinner, full certain I am,
 That § Ridge is anchovy, and || Reynolds is lamb ;
 That ¶ Hickey's a capon, and, by the same rule,
 Magnanimous Goldsmith, a gooseberry fool.
 At a dinner so various, at such a repast,
 Who'd not be a glutton, and stick to the last ?
 Here, waiter, more wine, let me sit while I'm able,
 'Till all my companions sink under the table ;
 Then, with chaos and blunders encircling my head,
 Let me ponder, and tell what I think of the dead.

* Mr. Richard Cumberland, author of the *West-Indian*, *Fashionable Lover*, the *Brothers*, and other dramatic pieces.

† Doctor Douglas, canon of Windsor, an ingenious Scotch gentleman, who has no less distinguished himself as a citizen of the world, than a sound critic, in detecting several literary mistakes (or rather forgeries) of his countrymen; particularly Lauder on Milton, and Bower's *History of the Popes*.

‡ David Garrick, esq;

§ Counsellor John Ridge, a gentleman belonging to the Irish bar.

|| Sir Joshua Reynolds.

¶ An eminent attorney.

Here

Here lies the good * dean, re-united to earth,
 Who mixt reason with pleasure, and wisdom with
 mirth :
 If he had any faults, he has left us in doubt,
 At least, in six weeks, I could not find 'em out ;
 Yet some have declar'd, and it can't be denied 'em,
 That fly-boots was cursedly cunning to hide 'em.

Here lies our good † Edmund, whose genius was
 such,
 We scarcely can praise it, or blame it too much ;
 Who, born for the universe, narrow'd his mind,
 And to party gave up what was meant for mankind.
 Though fraught with all learning, yet straining his
 throat,
 To persuade † Tommy Townshend to lend him a vote ;
 Who, too deep for his hearers, still went on refining,
 And thought of convincing, while they thought of
 dining ;
 Though equal to all things, for all things unfit,
 Too nice for a statesman, too proud for a wit :
 For a patriot too cool ; for a drudge, disobedient ;
 And too fond of the *right* to pursue the *expedient*.
 In short, 'twas his fate, unemploy'd, or in place, sir,
 To eat mutton cold, and cut blocks with a razor.

* Vide page 97.

† Ibid.

‡ Mr. T. Townshend, member for Whitchurch.

Here lies honest * William, whose heart was a
 mint,
 While the owner ne'er knew half the good that was
 in't ;
 The pupil of impulse, it forc'd him along,
 His conduct still right, with his argument wrong ;
 Still aiming at honour, yet fearing to roam,
 The coachman was tipsy, the chariot drove home ;
 Would you ask for his merits ? alas ! he had none ;
 What was good was spontaneous, his faults were his
 own.

Here lies honest Richard, whose fate I must sigh at ;
 Alas, that such frolic should now be so quiet !
 What spirits were his ! what wit and what whim !
 † Now breaking a jest, and now breaking a limb !
 Now wrangling and grumbling to keep up the ball !
 Now teasing and vexing, yet laughing at all !
 In short, so provoking a devil was Dick,
 That we wish'd him full ten times a day at old nick ;
 But, missing his mirth and agreeable vein,
 As often we wish'd to have Dick back again.

* Vide page 97.

† Mr. Richard Burke ; vide page 97. This gentleman having slightly fractured one of his arms and legs, at different times, the doctor has rallied him on those accidents, as a kind of retributive justice for breaking his jests upon other people.

Here

Here * Cumberland lies, having acted his parts,
 The Terence of England, the mender of hearts ;
 A flattering painter, who made it his care
 To draw men as they ought to be, not as they are.
 His gallants are all faultless, his women divine,
 And comedy wonders at being so fine ;
 Like a tragedy queen he has dizen'd her out,
 Or rather like tragedy giving a rout.
 His fools have their follies so lost in a crowd
 Of virtues and feelings, that folly grows proud,
 And coxcombs alike in their failings alone,
 Adopting his portraits are pleas'd with their own.
 Say, where has our poet this malady caught ?
 Or, wherefore his characters thus without fault ?
 Say, was it that vainly directing his view
 To find out mens virtues, and finding them few,
 Quite sick of pursuing each troublesome elf,
 He grew lazy at last, and drew from himself ?

Here † Douglas retires from his toils to relax,
 The scourge of impostors, the terror of quacks :
 Come, all ye quack bards, and ye quacking divines,
 Come, and dance on the spot where your tyrant re-
 clines :
 When satire and censure encircled his throne,
 I fear'd for your safety, I fear'd for my own ;

* Vide page 98.

† Ibid.

But now he is gone, and we want a detector,
Our * Dodds shall be pious, our † Kenricks shall lec-
ture ;

‡ Macpherson write bombast, and call it a style,
Our § Townsend make speeches, and I shall compile ;
New || Lauders and Bowers the Tweed shall cross over,
No countryman living their tricks to discover ;
Detection her taper shall quench to a spark,
And Scotchman meet Scotchman and cheat in the dark.

Here lies ¶ David Garrick, describe me who can,
An abridgement of all that was pleafant in man ;
As an actor, confest without rival to shine ;
As a wit, if not first, in the very first line :
Yet, with talents like these, and an excellent heart,
The man had his failings, a dupe to his art.
Like an ill-judging beauty, his colours he spread,
And beplaster'd with rouge, his own natural red.
On the stage he was natural, simple, affecting ;
'Twas only that, when he was off, he was acting.
With no reason on earth to go out of his way,
He turn'd and he varied full ten times a-day :

* The Rev. Dr. Dodd.

† Dr. Kenrick, who read lectures at the Devil tavern,
under the title of " The School of Shakespeare."

‡ James Macpherson, esq; who lately, from the mere
force of his style, wrote down the first poet of all antiquity.

§ Vide page 99. || Vide page 98. ¶ Vide page 98.

Though

Though secure of our hearts, yet confoundedly sick;
 If they were not his own by finessing and trick :
 He cast off his friends, as a huntsman his pack,
 For he knew when he pleas'd he could whistle them
 back.

Of praise a mere glutton, he swallow'd what came,
 And the puff of a dunce, he mistook it for fame ;
 'Till his relish grown callous, almost to disease,
 Who pepper'd the highest, was surest to please.
 But let us be candid, and speak out our mind,
 If dunces applauded, he paid them in kind.
 Ye * Kenricks, ye † Kellys, and ‡ Woodfalls so grave,
 What a commerce was yours, while you got and you
 gave ?

How did Grub-street re-echo the shouts that you rais'd,
 While he was be-Roscius'd, and you were beprais'd ?
 But peace to his spirit, wherever it flies,
 To act as an angel, and mix with the skies :
 Those poets, who owe their best fame to his skill,
 Shall still be his flatterers, go where he will.
 Old Shakespeare, receive him, with praise and with
 love,
 And Beaumonts and Bens be his † Kellys above.

* Vide page 102.

† Mr. Hugh Kelly, author of *False Delicacy*, *Word to the Wife*, *Clementina*, *School for Wives*, &c. &c.

‡ Mr. William Woodfall, printer of the *Morning Chronicle*.

Here * Hickey reclines, a most blunt, pleasant
 creature,
 And slander itself must allow him good-nature :
 He cherish'd his friend, and he relish'd a bumper ;
 Yet one fault he had, and that one was a thumper.
 Perhaps you may ask if the man was a miser :
 I answer, no, no, for he always was wiser :
 Too courteous, perhaps, or obligingly flat ?
 His very worst foe can't accuse him of that :
 Perhaps he confided in men as they go,
 And so was too foolishly honest ? ah no !
 Then what was his failing ? come tell it, and burn
 ye,—
 He was, could he help it ? a special attorney.

Here † Reynolds is laid, and, to tell you my mind,
 He has not left a wiser or better behind ;
 His pencil was striking, resolute and grand ;
 His manners were gentle, complying and bland ;
 Still born to improve us in every part,
 His pencil our faces, his manners our heart :
 To coxcombs averse, yet most civilly steering,
 When they judg'd without skill he was still hard of
 hearing :
 When they talk'd of their Raphaels, Corregios and stuff,
 He shifted his † trumpet, and only took snuff.

* Vide page 98.

† Ibid.

‡ Sir Joshua Reynolds is so remarkably deaf as to be under the necessity of using an ear-trumpet in company.

P O S T S C R I P T.

AFTER the fourth edition of this poem was printed, the publisher received the following epitaph on Mr. Whitefoord,* from a friend of the late doctor Goldsmith.

HERE Whitefoord reclines, and deny it who can,
 Though he merrily lived, he is now a † grave man :
 Rare compound of oddity, frolic and fun !
 Who relish'd a joke, and rejoic'd in a pun ;
 Whose temper was generous, open, sincere ;
 A stranger to flatt'ry, a stranger to fear ;
 Who scatter'd around wit and humour at will ;
 Whose daily *bons mots* half a column might fill :
 A Scotchman, from pride and from prejudice free ;
 A scholar, yet surely no pedant was he.

What pity, alas ! that so lib'ral a mind
 Should so long be to news-paper essays confin'd !
 Who perhaps to the summit of science could soar,
 Yet content " if the table he set in a roar ;"

* Mr. Caleb Whitefoord, author of many humorous essays.

† Mr. W. was so notorious a punster, that doctor Goldsmith used to say it was impossible to keep him company, without being infected with the itch of punning.

Whose

Whose talents to fill any station was fit,
Yet happy if Woodfall * confests'd him a wit.

Ye news paper wittlings ! ye pert scribbling folks !
Who copied his squibs, and re-echoed his jokes ;
Ye tame imitators, ye servile herd, come,
Still follow your master, and visit his tomb :
To deck it, bring with you festoons of the vine,
And copious libations bestow on his shrine ;
Then strew all around it (you can do no less)
‡ *Cross-readings, ship-news, and mistakes of the press.*

Merry Whitefoord, farewell ! for thy sake I admit
That a Scot may have humour, I had almost said wit :
This debt to thy mem'ry I cannot refuse,
“ Thou best humour'd man with the worst humour'd
“ muse.”

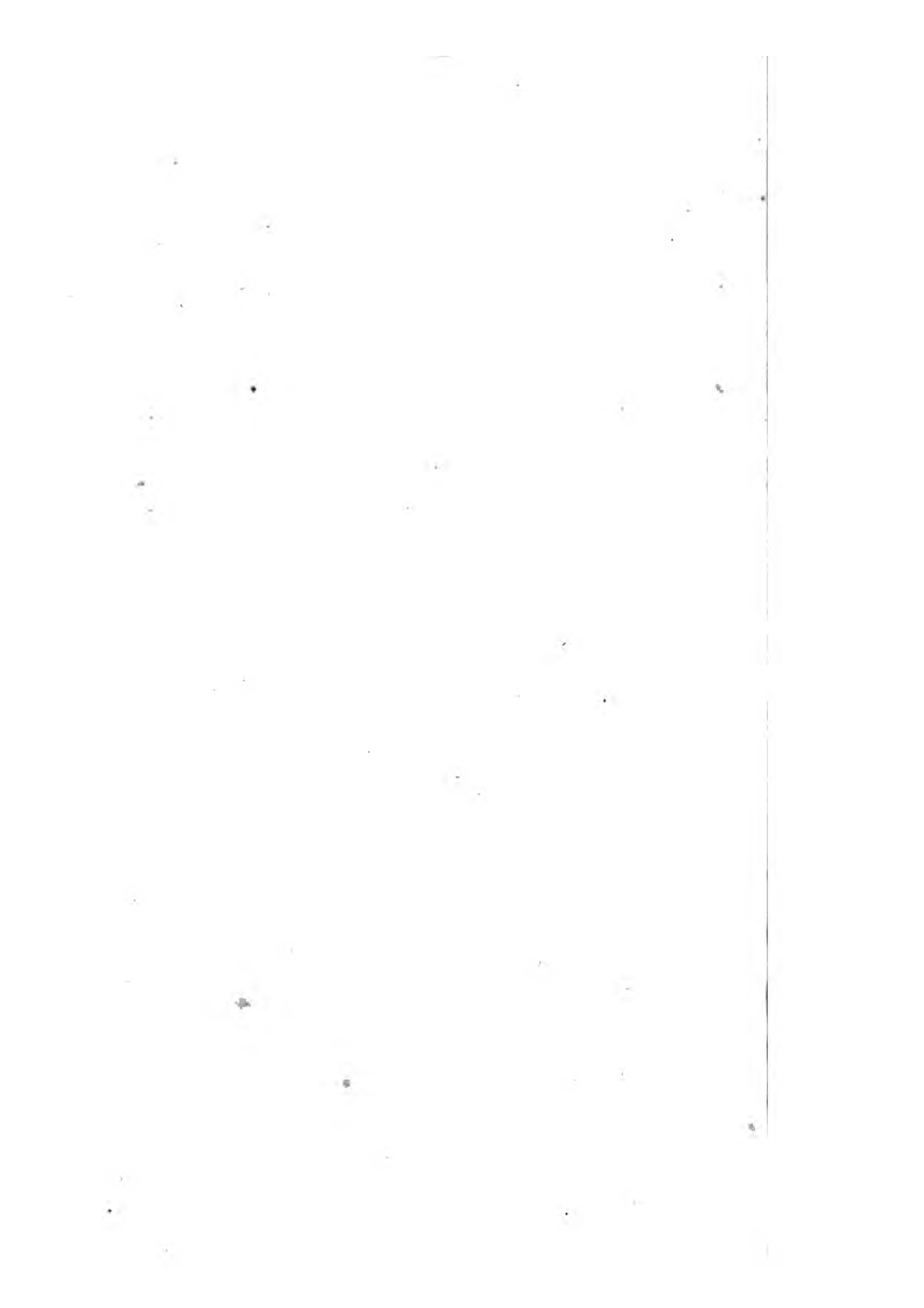
* Mr. H. S. Woodfall, printer of the Public Advertiser.

‡ Mr. Whitefoord has frequently indulged the town with humorous pieces under those titles in the Public Advertiser.

P L A Y S,

B Y

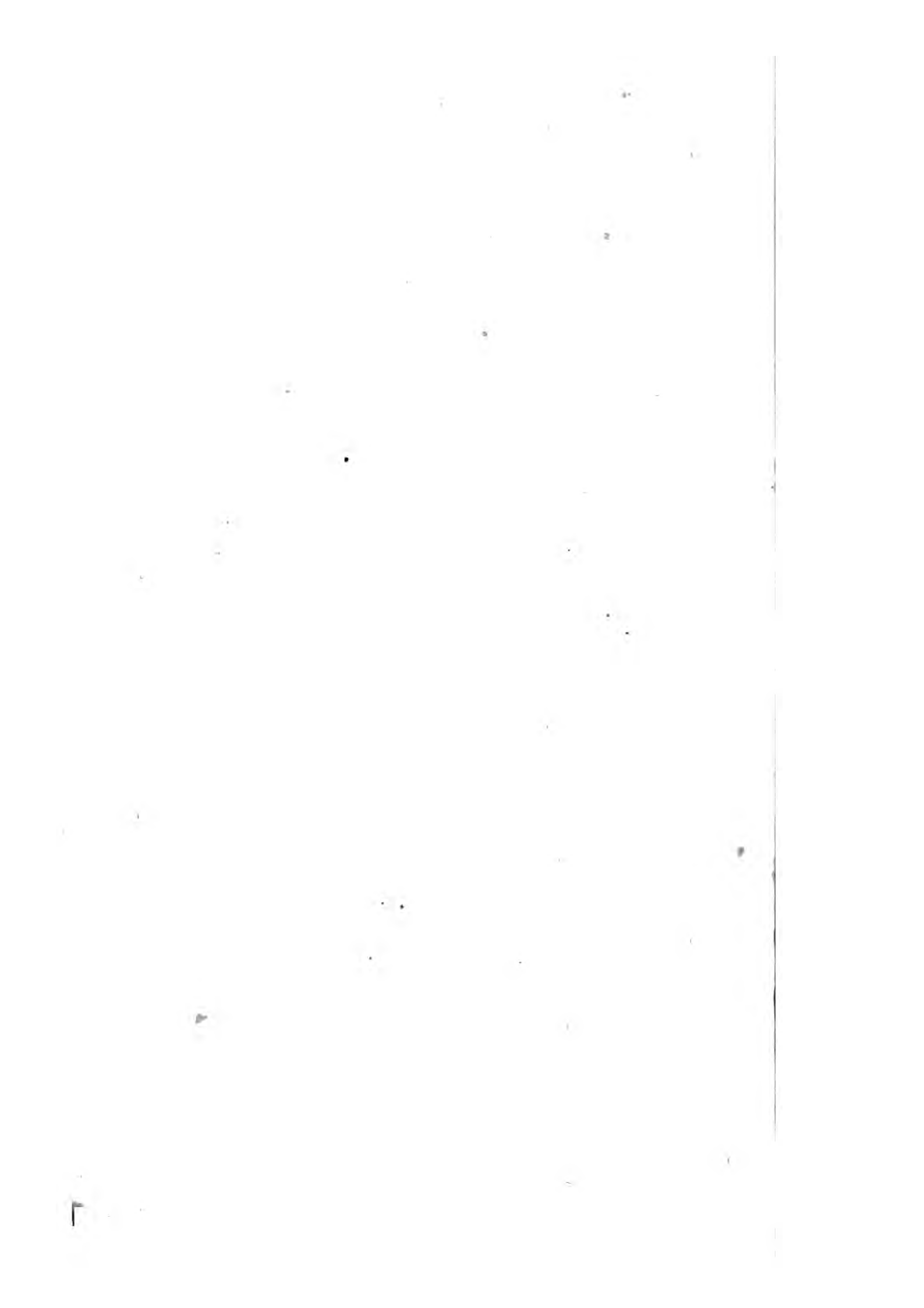
D R. G O L D S M I T H.



T H E
G O O D - N A T U R ' D M A N :
A
C O M E D Y .

AS PERFORMED AT THE
T H E A T R E - R O Y A L ,
I N
C O V E N T - G A R D E N .

FIRST PRINTED IN MDCCLXVIII.



S O N G.

INTENDED TO HAVE BEEN SUNG IN THE COMEDY
OF "SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER." *

AH, me! when shall I marry me?
Lovers are plenty; but fail to relieve me.
He, fond youth, that could carry me,
Offers to love, but means to deceive me.

* Sir, I send you a small production of the late Dr. Goldsmith, which has never been published, and which might perhaps have been totally lost, had I not secured it. He intended it as a song in the character of Miss Hardcastle, in his admirable comedy of "She Stoops to Conquer," but it was left out, as Mrs. Bulkley, who play'd the part, did not sing. He sung it himself, in private companies very agreeably. The tune is a pretty Irish air, called "The Humours of Balamagairy," to which he told me he found it very difficult to adapt words; but he has succeeded very happily in these few lines. As I could

But I will rally and combat the ruiner :
Not a look, not a smile shall my passion discover.
She that gives all to the false one pursuing her,
Makes but a penitent, and loses a lover.

sing the tune, and was fond of them, he was so good as to give me them, about a year ago, just as I was leaving London, and bidding him adieu for that season, little apprehending that it was a last farewell. I preserve this little relic, in his own hand writing, with an affectionate care. I am, Sir,

Your humble servant,

JAMES BOSWELL.

P R O L O G U E,
T O
Z O B E I D E : A T R A G E D Y.
W R I T T E N B Y
J O S E P H C R A D D O C K , E S Q.
A C T E D A T T H E
T H E A T R E - R O Y A L , C O V E N T - G A R D E N
M D C C L X X I I .
S P O K E N B Y M R . Q U I C K .

I N these bold times, when Learning's fons explore,
The distant climates, and the savage shore ;
When wise *astronomers* to India steer,
And quit for Venus many a brighter here ;
While *botanists*, all cold to smiles and dimpling,
Forfake the fair, and patiently—go simpling.
Our bard into the general spirit enters,
And fits his little frigate for adventures.

With *Scythian* stores, and trinkets deeply laden,
 He this way steers his course, in hopes of trading—
 Yet ere he lands he 'as order'd me before,
 To make an observation on the shore.

Where are we driven? our reckoning sure is lost!
 This seems a rocky and a dangerous coast.

Lord, what a sultry climate am I under!

Yon ill-foreboding cloud seems big with thunder:

(Upper gallery.)

There mangroves spread, and larger than I've seen 'em—

(Pit.)

Here trees of stately size—and billing turtles in 'em—

(Balconies.)

Here ill conditioned oranges abound—— *(Stage.)*

And apples, bitter apples strew the ground:

[Tasting them.]

The inhabitants are canibals I fear:

I heard a hissing—there are serpents here!

O, there the people are—best keep my distance;

Our Captain (gentle natives) craves assistance;

Our ship's well stor'd—in yonder creek we've laid
 her,

His honour is no mercenary trader.

This is his first adventure, lend him aid,

And we may chance to drive a thriving trade.

His

His goods, he hopes, are prime, and brought from
far,

Equally fit for gallantry and war.

What, no reply to promises so ample ?

—I'd best step back—and order up a sample.

E P I L O G U E,

S P O K E N B Y

M R. L E E L E W E S,

IN THE CHARACTER OF HARLEQUIN, AT HIS
BENEFIT.

HOLD! Prompter, hold! a word before your
nonsense;

I'd speak a word or two, to ease my conscience.

My pride forbids it ever should be said,

My heels eclips'd the honours of my head;

That I found humour in a pyeball vest,

Or ever thought that jumping was a jest.

[Takes off his mask.]

Whence, and what art thou, visionary birth?

Nature disowns, and reason scorns thy mirth,

In thy black aspect every passion sleeps,

The joy that dimples, and the woe that weeps.

How hast thou fill'd the scene with all thy brood,

Of fools pursuing, and of fools pursu'd!

Whose

Whose ins and outs no ray of sense discloses,
 Whose only plot it is to break our noses ;
 Whilst from below the trap-door *Dæmons* rise,
 And from above the dangling deities ;
 And shall I mix in this unhallow'd crew ?
 May rosin'd lightning blast me, if I do !
 No—I will act, I'll vindicate the stage :
 Shakespeare himself shall feel my tragic rage.
 Off ! off ! vile trappings ! a new passion reigns !
 The mad'ning monarch revels in my veins.
 Oh ! for a Richard's voice to catch the theme :
 Give me another horse ! bind up my wounds !—
 soft—'twas but a dream.
 Aye, 'twas but a dream, for now there's no retreating :
 If I cease Harlequin, I cease from eating.
 'Twas thus that *Æsop's* stag, a creature blameless,
 Yet something vain, like one that shall be nameless,
 Once on the margin of a fountain stood,
 And cavill'd at his image in the flood.
 “ The deuce confound,” he cries, “ these drum-
 “ stick thanks,
 “ They never have my gratitude nor thanks ;
 “ They're perfectly disgraceful ! strike me dead !
 “ But for a head, yes, yes, I have a head.

“ How

“ How piercing is that eye ! how sleek that brow !
“ My horns ! I'm told horns are the fashion now.”
Whilst thus he spoke, astonish'd ! to his view,
Near, and more near, the hounds and huntsmen drew.
Hoicks ! hark forward ! came thundering from be-
hind,
He bounds aloft, outstrips the fleeting wind :
He quits the woods, and tries the beaten ways ;
He starts, he pants, he takes the circling maze.
At length his silly head, so priz'd before,
Is taught his former folly to deplore ;
Whilst his strong limbs conspire to set him free,
And at one bound he saves himself, like me.

[Taking a jump through the stage door.]

T H E
L O G I C I A N S R E F U T E D.

IN IMITATION OF DEAN SWIFT.

L O G I C I A N S have but ill defin'd
As rational the human mind ;
Reason, they say, belongs to man,
But let them prove it if they can.
Wise Aristotle and Smiglesius,
By Ratiocinations specious,
Have strove to prove with great precision,
With definition and division,
Homo est ratione peditum ;
But for my soul I cannot credit 'em.
And must in spite of them maintain,
That man and all his ways are vain ;
And that this boasted lord of nature,
Is both a weak and erring creature.

That

That instinct is a surer guide,
 Than reason-boasting mortals pride ;
 And that brute beasts are far before 'em,
Deus est anima brutorum.
 Whoever knew an honest brute,
 At law his neighbour prosecute,
 Bring action for assault and battery,
 Or friend beguile with lies and flattery.
 O'er plains they ramble unconfin'd,
 No politics disturb their mind ;
 They eat their meals, and take their sport,
 Nor know who's in or out at court,
 They never to the levee go
 To treat as dearest friend, a foe :
 They never importune his grace,
 Nor ever cringe to men in place ;
 Nor undertake a dirty job,
 Nor draw the quill to write for Bob,
 Fraught with invective they ne'er go,
 To folks at Pater-noster Row :
 No judges, fiddlers, dancing masters,
 No pick-pockets, or poetasters,
 Are known to honest quadrupeds,
 No single brute his fellows leads.

Brutes

Brutes never meet in bloody fray,
 Nor cut each others throats for pay.
 Of beasts, it is confes'd, the ape
 Comes nearest us in human shape,
 Like man he imitates each fashion,
 And malice is his ruling passion :
 But both in malice and grimaces,
 A courtier any ape surpasses.
 Behold him humbly cringing wait,
 Upon the minister of state :
 View him soon after to inferiors
 Aping the conduct of superiors :
 He promises with equal air,
 And to perform takes equal care.
 He in his turn finds imitators,
 At court, the porters, lacques, waiters,
 Their master's manners still contract,
 And footmen, lords and dukes can act.
 Thus at the court, both great and small,
 Behave alike, for all ape all.

S T A N Z A S
O N T H E
T A K I N G O F Q U E B E C.

AMIDST the clamour of exulting joys,
Which triumph forces from the patriot heart ;
Grief dares to mingle her soul-piercing voice,
And quells the raptures which from pleasures start.

O, Wolfe, to thee a streaming flood of woe,
Sighing we pay, and think e'en conquest dear ;
Quebec in vain shall teach our breast to glow,
Whilst thy sad fate extorts the heart-wrung tear.

Alive the foe thy dreadful vigour fled,
And saw thee fall with joy-pronouncing eyes :
Yet they shall know thou conquerest, though dead !
Since from thy tomb a thousand heroes rise.

ON A BEAUTIFUL YOUTH STRUCK BLIND
BY LIGHTENING.

IMITATED FROM THE SPANISH.

SURE 'twas by Providence design'd,
Rather in pity, than in hate,
That he shou'd be, like cupid, blind,
To save him from Narcissus' fate.

A S O N N E T.

WEEPING, murmuring, complaining,
Lost to every gay delight ;
Myra, too sincere for feigning,
Fears th' approaching bridal night.

Yet why impair thy bright perfection ?
Or dim thy beauty with a tear ?
Had Myra follow'd my direction,
She long had wanted cause of fear.

E N D O F V O L I .



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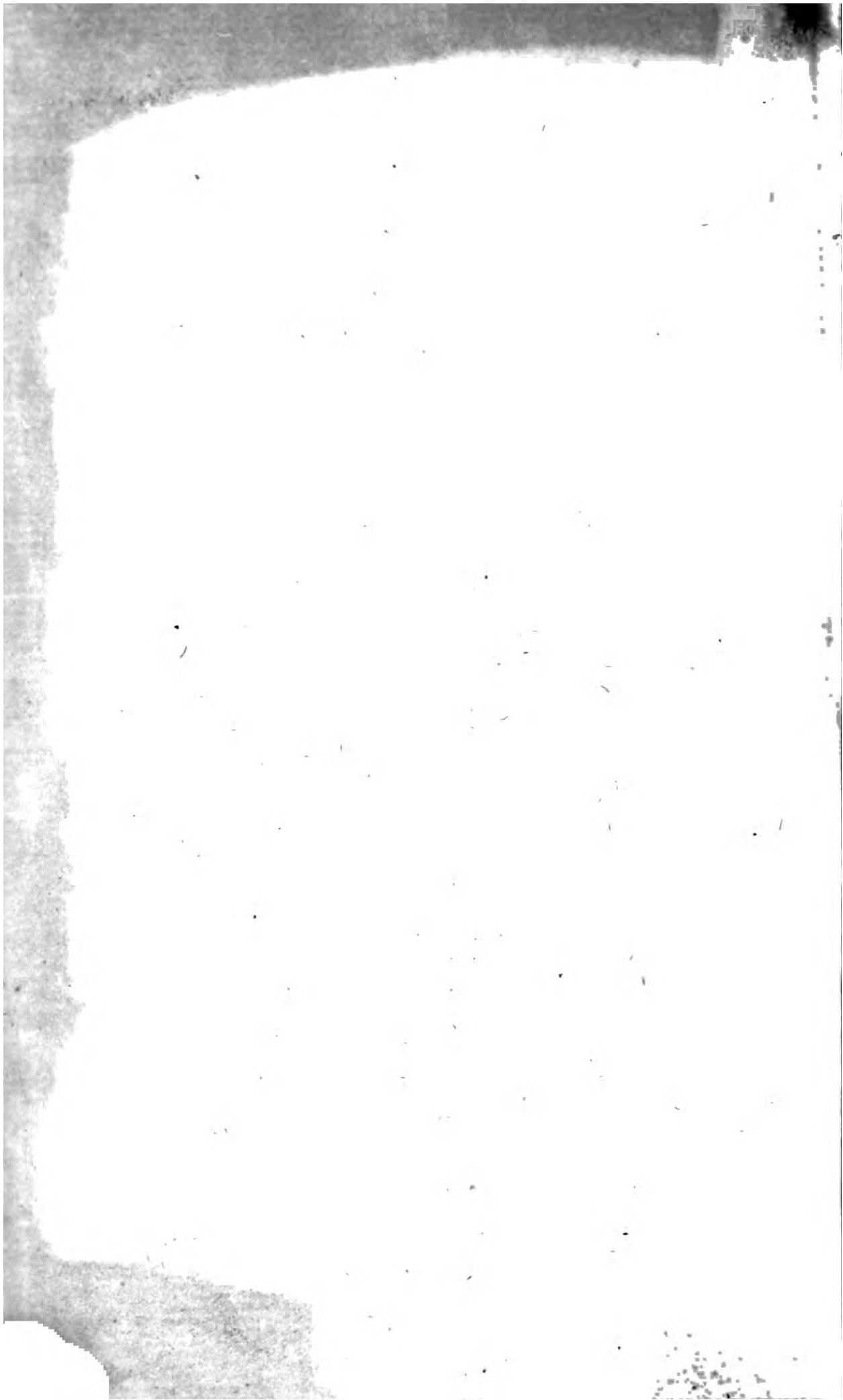
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