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INLAY.
LLER.
HALL ST
OW.



[Handwritten signature]

West of Scotland Institution.

1, Claremont Terrace.

II Class.

Botany, Music, & Composition

1st Prize.

Awarded to

Miss Ella Ballardie

June, 1889.



Johnson e 4155



HERBERT & COEMSA

The

POETICAL WORKS

of

GEORGE HERBERT

ILLUSTRATED

THE
POETICAL WORKS

OF
GEORGE HERBERT.

ILLUSTRATED.

LONDON:
JAMES NISBET AND CO. BERNERS STREET.

MDCCCLXV.



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*The Ornamentation designed by H. N. Humphreys, and
engraved by H. N. Woods.*





THE
DEDICATION

Lord my first fruits present themselves to thee
Yet not mine neither: for from thee they came,
And must return: Accept of them and me,
And make us strive, who shall sing best thy name.
Turn their eyes hither, who shall make a gain
Theirs, who shall hurt themselves or me refrain.



THE CHURCH-PORCH.

Perirrhanterium.

How whose sweet youth and early hopes inhance
Thy rate and price, and mark thee for a treasure,
Hearken unto a Verser, who may chance
Ryme thee to good, and make a bait of pleasure:
A verse may finde him who a sermon flies,
And turn delight into a sacrifice.

Beware of lust ; it doth pollute and foul
 Whom God in Baptisme washt with his own blood :
 It blots the lesson written in thy soul ;
 The holy lines cannot be understood.
 How dare those eyes upon a Bible look,
 Much lesse towards God, whose lust is all their book !

Wholly abstain, or wed. Thy bounteous Lord
 Allows thee choice of paths : take no by-ways ;
 But gladly welcome what he doth afford ;
 Not grudging that thy lust hath bounds and staves.
 Continence hath his joy : weigh both,; and so,
 If rottennesse have more, let Heaven go.

If God had laid all common, certainly
 Man would have been th' incloser : but since now
 God hath impal'd us, on the contrarie
 Man breaks the fence, and every ground will plow.
 O what were man, might he himself misplace !
 Sure, to be crosse, he would shift feet and face.

Drink not the third glasse, which thou canst not tame,
 When once it is within thee ; but before
 May'st rule it as thou list : and poure the shame,
 Which it would poure on thee, upon the floore.
 It is most just to throw that on the ground,
 Which would throw me there, if I keep the round.

He that is drunken may his mother kill
 Bigge with his sister : he hath lost the reins ;
 Is outlaw'd by himself : all kinde of ill
 Did with his liquor slide into his veins.
 The drunkard forfeits Man, and doth devest
 All worldly right, save what he hath by beast.

Shall I, to please another's wine-sprung minde,
Lose all mine own? God hath giv'n me a measure
Short of his canne and bodie; must I finde
A pain in that, wherein he findes a pleasure?
Stay at the third glasse: if thou lose thy hold,
Then thou art modest, and the wine grows bold.

If reason move not Gallants, quit the room;
(All in a shipwrack shift their severall way)
Let not a common ruine thee intombe:
Be not a beast in courtesie; but stay,
Stay at the third cup, or forego the place.
Wine above all things doth God's stamp deface.

Yet, if thou sinne in wine or wantonnesse,
Boast not thereof; nor make thy shame thy glorie.
Frailtie gets pardon by submissivenesse;
But he that boasts, shuts that out of his storie:
He makes flat warre with God, and doth defie
With his poore clod of earth the spacious sky.

Take not his Name, who made thy mouth, in vain:
It gets thee nothing, and hath no excuse.
Lust and wine plead a pleasure; avarice gain:
But the cheap swearer through his open sluice
Lets his soul runne for nought, as little fearing:
Were I an *Epicure*, I could bate swearing.

When thou dost tell another's jest, therein
Omit the oathes, which true wit cannot need:
Pick out of tales the mirth, but not the sinne.
He pares his apple, that will cleanly feed.
Play not away the vertue of that Name,
Which is thy best stake when griefs make thee tame.

The cheapest sinnes most dearly punisht are ;
 Because to shun them also is so cheap :
 For we have wit to mark them, and to spare.
 O crumble not away thy soul's fair heap.
 If thou wilt die, the gates of hell are broad :
 Pride and full sinnes have made the way a road.

Lie not ; but let thy heart be true to God,
 Thy mouth to it, thy actions to them both :
 Cowards tell lies, and those that fear the rod ;
 The stormie working soul spits lies and froth.
 Dare to be true. Nothing can need a ly :
 A fault, which needs it most, grows two thereby.

Flie idlenesse ; which yet thou canst not flie
 By dressing, mistressing, and complement.
 If those take up thy day, the sunne will crie
 Against thee ; for his light was onely lent.
 God gave thy soul brave wings ; put not those feathers
 Into a bed, to sleep out all ill weathers.

Art thou a Magistrate ? then be severe :
 If studious, copie fair what time hath blurr'd ;
 Redeem truth from his jawes : if souldier,
 Chase brave employments with a naked sword
 Throughout the world. Fool not ; for all may have,
 If they dare try, a glorious life, or grave.

O England ! full of sinne, but most of sloth ;
 Spit out thy flegme, and fill thy breast with glorie :
 Thy Gentry bleats, as if thy native cloth
 Transfus'd a sheepishnesse into thy storie :
 Not that they all are so ; but that the most
 Are gone to grasse, and in the pasture lost.

This losse springs chiefly from our education.
Some till their ground, but let weeds choke their sonne :
Some mark a partridge, never their *child's* fashion :
Some ship them over, and the thing is done.
 Studie this art, make it thy great designe ;
 And, if God's image move thee not, let thine.

Some great estates provide, but do not breed
A mast'ring minde ; so both are lost thereby :
Or els they breed them tender ; make them need
All that they leave : this is flat povertie.
 For he that needs five thousand pound to live,
 Is full as poore as he that needs but five.

The way to make thy sonne rich, is to fill
His minde with rest before his trunk with riches :
For wealth without contentment climbs a hill,
To feel those tempests which fly over ditches.
 But if thy sonne can make ten pound his measure,
 Then all thou addest may be call'd his treasure.

When thou dost purpose ought, (within thy power)
Be sure to doe it, though it be but small :
Constancie knits the bones, and makes us stowre,
When wanton pleasures becken us to thrall.
Who breaks his own bond, forfeiteth himself :
What nature made a ship, he makes a shelf.

Doe all things like a man, not sneakingly :
Think the king sees thee still ; for his King does.
Simp'ring is but a lay-hypocrisie :
Give it a corner, and the clue undoes.
 Who fears to do ill, sets himself to task :
 Who fears to do well, sure should wear a mask.

Look to thy mouth : diseases enter there.
Thou hast two sconses, if thy stomach call ;
Carve, or discourse ; do not a famine fear.
Who carves, is kind to two ; who talks, to all.
 Look on meat, think it dirt, then eat a bit ;
 And say withall, Earth to earth I commit.

Slight those who say, amidst their sickly healths,
Thou liv'st by rule. What doth not so, but man ?
Houses are built by rule, and common-wealths.
Entice the trusty sunne, if that you can,
 From his Ecliptick line ; becken the skie.
 Who lives by rule then keeps good companie.

Who keeps no guard upon himself, is slack ;
And rots to nothing at the next great thaw.
Man is a shop of rules ; a well-truss'd pack,
Whose every parcell under-writes a law.
 Lose not thyself, nor give thy humours way :
 God gave them to thee under lock and key.

By all means use sometimes to be alone.
Salute thy self : see what thy soul doth wear.
Dare to look in thy chest ; for 'tis thine own :
And tumble up and down what thou find'st there.
 Who cannot rest till he good fellows finde,
 He breaks up house, turns out of doores his minde.

Be thriftie, but not covetous : therefore give
Thy need, thine honour, and thy friend, his due.
Never was scraper brave man. Get, to live ;
Then live, and use it : else, it is not true
 That thou hast gotten. Surely use alone
 Makes money not a contemptible stone.

Never exceed thy income. Youth may make
Ev'n with the yeare : but age, if it will hit,
Shoots a bow short ; and lessens still his stake,
As the day lessens, and his life with it.

Thy children, kindred, friends, upon thee call ;
Before thy journey fairly part with all.

Yet in thy thriving still misdoubt some evil ;
Lest gaining gain on thee, and make thee dimme
To all things els. Wealth is the conjurer's devil ;
Whom when he thinks he hath, the devil hath him.

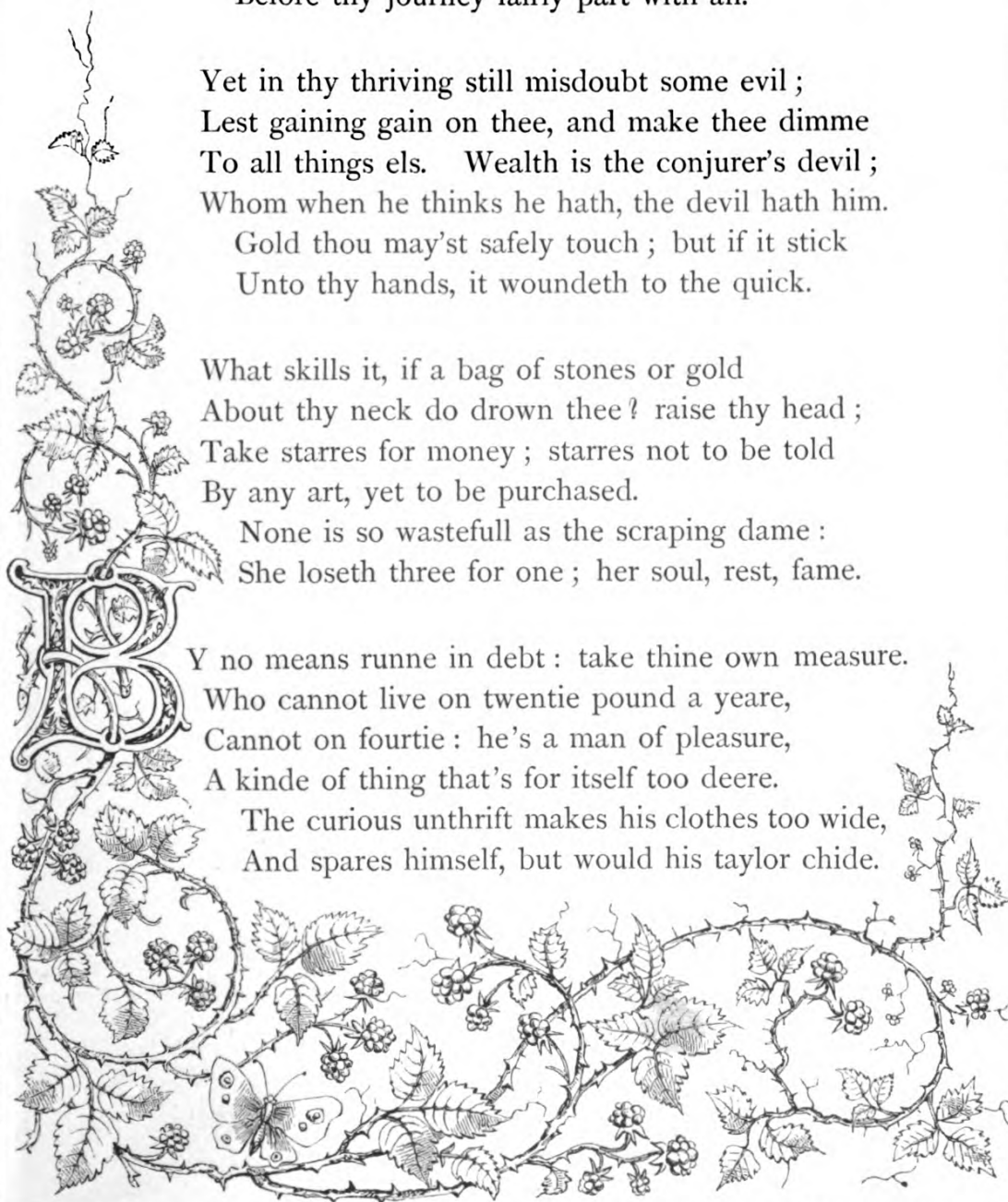
Gold thou may'st safely touch ; but if it stick
Unto thy hands, it woundeth to the quick.

What skills it, if a bag of stones or gold
About thy neck do drown thee ? raise thy head ;
Take starres for money ; starres not to be told
By any art, yet to be purchased.

None is so wastefull as the scraping dame :
She loseth three for one ; her soul, rest, fame.

Y no means runne in debt : take thine own measure.
Who cannot live on twentie pound a yeare,
Cannot on fourtie : he's a man of pleasure,
A kinde of thing that's for itself too deere.

The curious unthrift makes his clothes too wide,
And spares himself, but would his taylor chide.



Spend not on hopes. They that by *pleading clothes*
 Do fortunes seek, when worth and service fail,
 Would have their tale beleev'd for their oathes,
 And are like empty vessels under sail.

Old courtiers know this ; therefore set out so,
 As all the day thou may'st hold out to go.

In clothes, cheap handsomenesse doth bear the bell.
 Wisdome's a trimmer thing than shop e'er gave.
 Say not then, This with that lace will do well ;
 But, This with my discretion will be brave.

Much curiousnesse is a perpetual wooing ;
 Nothing with labour, folly long a doing.

Play not for gain, but sport. Who playes for more
 Than he can lose with pleasure, stakes his heart :
 Perhaps his wife's too, and whom she hath bore :
 Servants and churches also pay their part.

Onely a herald, who that way doth passe,
 Findes his crackt name at length in the church-glasse.

If yet thou love game at so deere a rate,
 Learn this, that hath old gamesters deerely cost :
 Dost lose ? rise up : dost winne ? rise in that state.
 Who strive to sit out losing hands are lost.

Game is a civil gunpowder, in peace
 Blowing up houses with their whole increase.

In conversation boldnesse now bears sway.
 But know, that nothing can so foolish be,
 As empty boldnesse : therefore first assay
 To stuffe thy minde with solid braverie ;

Then march on gallant : get substantiall worth :
 Boldnesse gilds finely, and will set it forth.

Be sweet to all. Is thy complexion sowre?
Then keep such companie ; make them thy allay :
Get a sharp wife, a servant that will lowre.
A stumbler stumbles least in rugged way.
Command thyself in chief. He lifes warre knows,
Whom all his passions follow, as he goes.

Catch not at quarrels. He that dares not speak
Plainly and home, is coward of the two.
Think not thy fame at ev'ry twitch will break :
By great deeds shew, that thou canst little do ;
And do them not : that shall thy wisdome be ;
And change thy temperance into braverie.

If that thy fame with ev'ry toy be pos'd,
'Tis a thinne web, which poysonous fancies make ;
But the great souldiers honour was compos'd
Of thicker stuffe, which would endure a shake.
Wisdome picks friends ; civilitie playes the rest.
A toy shunn'd cleanly passeth with the best.

Laugh not too much : the wittie man laughs least :
For wit is newes only to ignorance.
Lesse at thine own things laugh ; lest in the jest
Thy person share, and the conceit advance.
Make not thy sport, abuses : for the fly,
That feeds on dung, is coloured thereby.

Pick out of mirth, like stones out of thy ground,
Profanenesse, filthinesse, abusivenesse.
These are the scumme, with which coarse wits abound :
The fine may spare these well, yet not go lesse.
All things are bigge with jest : nothing that's plain
But may be wittie, if thou hast the vein.

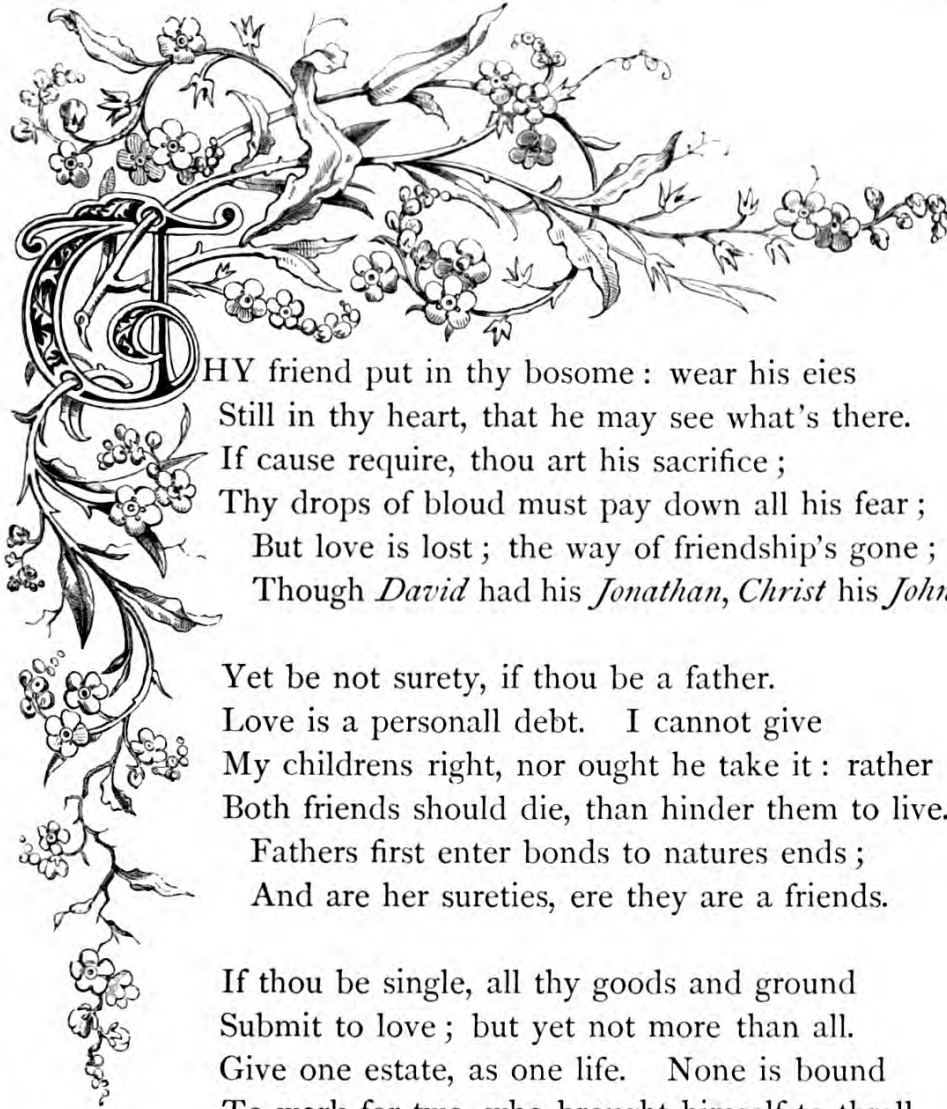
Wit's an unruly engine, wildly striking
Sometimes a friend, sometimes the engineer :
Hast thou the knack ? pamper it not with liking :
But if thou want it, buy it not too deere.
Many affecting wit beyond their power,
Have got to be a deare fool for an houre.

A sad wise valour is the brave complexion,
That leads the van, and swallows up the cities.
The gigler is a milk-maid, whom infection,
Or a fir'd beacon frighteth from his ditties.
Then he's the sport : the mirth then in him rests,
And the sad man is cock of all his jests.

Towards great persons use respective boldnesse :
That temper gives them theirs, and yet doth take
Nothing from thine : in service, care, or coldnesse
Doth ratably thy fortunes marre or make.
Feed no man in his sinnes : for adulation
Doth make thee parcell-devil in damnation.

Envie not greatnesse : for thou mak'st thereby
Thyself the worse, and so the distance greater.
Be not thine own worm : yet such jealousie,
As hurts not others, but may make thee better,
Is a good spurre. Correct thy passions spite ;
Then may the beasts draw thee to happy light.

When basenesse is exalted, do not bate
The place its honour, for the persons sake.
The shrine is that which thou dost venerate ;
And not the beast, that bears it on his back.
I care not though the cloth of state should be
Not of rich arras, but mean tapestrie.



WHY friend put in thy bosome : wear his eies
Still in thy heart, that he may see what's there.
If cause require, thou art his sacrifice ;
Thy drops of blood must pay down all his fear ;
But love is lost ; the way of friendship's gone ;
Though *David* had his *Jonathan*, *Christ* his *John*.

Yet be not surety, if thou be a father.
Love is a personall debt. I cannot give
My childrens right, nor ought he take it : rather
Both friends should die, than hinder them to live.
Fathers first enter bonds to natures ends ;
And are her sureties, ere they are a friends.

If thou be single, all thy goods and ground
Submit to love ; but yet not more than all.
Give one estate, as one life. None is bound
To work for two, who brought himself to thrall.
God made me one man ; love makes me no more,
Till labour come, and make my weaknesse score.

In thy discourse, if thou desire to please :
All such is courteous, usefull, new, or wittie :
Usefulnesse comes by labour, wit by ease ;
Courtesie grows in court ; news in the citie.
Get a good stock of these, then draw the card
That suites him best, of whom thy speech is heard.

Entice all neatly to what they know best ;
 For so thou dost thyself and him a pleasure :
 (But a proud ignorance will lose his rest,
 Rather than shew his cards) steal from his treasure
 What to ask further. Doubts well-rai's'd do lock
 The speaker to thee, and preserve thy stock.

If thou be Master-gunner, spend not all
 That thou canst speak, at once ; but husband it,
 And give men turns of speech : do not forestall
 By lavishnesse thine own, and others wit,
 As if thou mad'st thy will. A civil guest
 Will no more talk all, than eat all the feast.



BE calm in arguing : for fiercenesse makes
 Errour a fault, and truth discourtesie.
 Why should I feel another mans mistakes
 More, than his sicknesses or povertie ?
 In love I should : but anger is not love,
 Nor wisdom neither ; therefore gently move.

Calmnesse is great advantage : he that lets
 Another chafe, may warm him at his fire :
 Mark all his wandrings, and enjoy his frets ;
 As cunning fencers suffer heat to tire.
 Truth dwels not in the clouds : the bow that's there
 Doth often aim at, never hit the sphere.

Mark what another sayes : for many are
 Full of themselves, and answer their own notion.
 Take all into thee ; then with equall care
 Ballance each dramme of reason, like a potion.
 If truth be with thy friend, be with them both :
 Share in the conquest, and confesse a troth.

Be useful where thou livest, that they may
Both want, and wish thy pleasing presence still.
Kindnesse, good parts, great places are the way
To compasse this. Finde out mens wants and will,
And meet them there. All worldly joyes go lesse
To the one joy of doing kindnesses.

Pitch thy behaviour low, thy projects high ;
So shalt thou humble and magnanimous be :
Sink not in spirit : who aimeth at the sky
Shoots higher much than he that means a tree.
A grain of glorie mixt with humblenesse
Cures both a fever and lethargicknesse.

Let thy minde still be bent, still plotting where,
And when, and how the businesse may be done.
Slacknesse breeds worms ; but the sure traveller,
Though he alight sometimes, still goeth on.
Active and stirring spirits live alone :
Write on the others, Here lies such a one.

Slight not the smallest losse, whether it be
In love or honour ; take account of all :
Shine like the sunne in every corner : see
Whether thy stock of credit swell, or fall.
Who say, I care not, those I give for lost ;
And to instruct them, 'twill not quit the cost.

Scorn no man's love, though of a mean degree ;
(Love is a present for a mightie king,)
Much lesse make any one thine enemie.
As gunnes destroy, so may a little sling.
The cunning workman never doth refuse
The meanest tool, that he may chance to use.



All forrain wisdom doth amount to this,
To take all that is given ; whether wealth,
Or love, or language ; nothing comes amisse :
A good digestion turneth all to health :
And then as farre as fair behaviour may,
Strike off all scores ; none are so cleare as they.

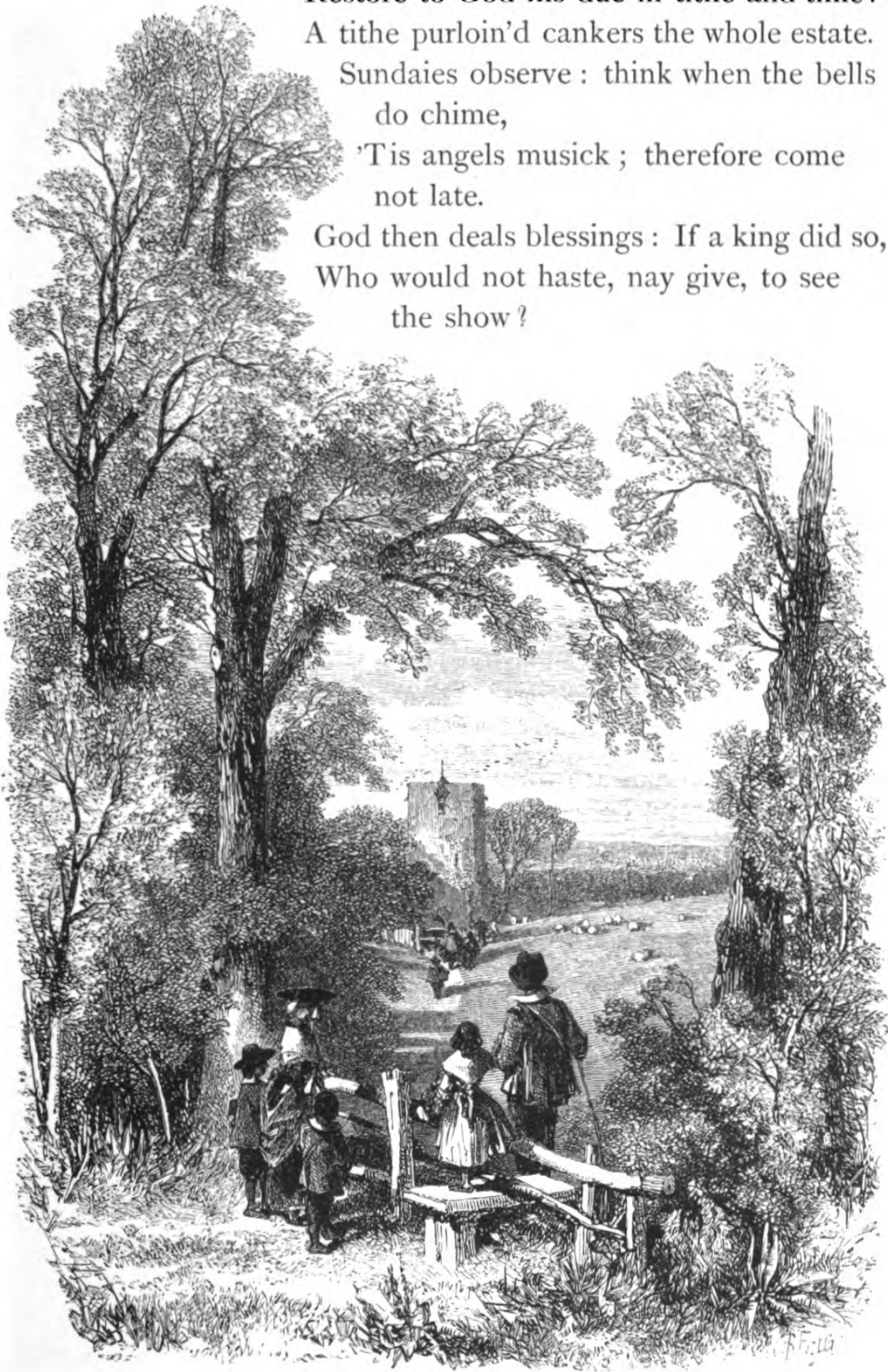
Keep all thy native good, and naturalize
All forrain of that name ; but scorn their ill :
Embrace their activeness, not vanities.
Who follows all things, forfeiteth his will.
If thou observest strangers in each fit,
In time they'l runne thee out of all thy wit.

Affect in things about thee cleanliness,
That all may gladly board thee, as a flowre.
Slovens take up their stock of noisomenesse
Beforehand, and anticipate their last houre.
Let thy mindes sweetness have his operation
Upon thy body, clothes, and habitation.

In Almes regard thy means, and others merit.
Think heav'n a better bargain, than to give
Onely thy single market-money for it.
Joyn hands with God to make a man to live.
Give to all something ; to a good poore man,
Till thou change names, and be where he began.

Man is Gods image ; but a poore man is
Christs stamp to boot : both images regard.
God reckons for him, counts the favour his :
Write, So much giv'n to God ; thou shalt be heard.
Let thy almes go before, and keep heav'ns gate
Open for thee ; or both may come too late.

Restore to God his due in tithe and time :
A tithe purloin'd cankers the whole estate.
Sundaies observe : think when the bells
do chime,
'Tis angels musick ; therefore come
not late.
God then deals blessings : If a king did so,
Who would not haste, nay give, to see
the show ?



Twice on the day his due is understood ;
 For all the week thy food so oft he gave thee.
 Thy cheere is mended ; bate not of the food,
 Because 'tis better, and perhaps may save thee.
 Thwart not th' Almighty God : O be not crosse.
 Fast when thou wilt ; but then 'tis gain, not losse.

Though private prayer be a brave designe,
 Yet publick hath more promises, more love :
 And love's a weight to hearts, to eies a signe.
 We all are but cold suitours ; let us move
 Where it is warmest. Leave thy six and seven ;
 Pray with the most : for where most pray, is heaven.

When once thy foot enters the church, be bare.
 God is more there than thou : for thou art there
 Onely by his permission. Then beware,
 And make thyself all reverence and fear.
 Kneeling ne'er spoild silk stocking : quit thy state.
 All equall are within the churches gate.

Resort to sermons, but to prayers most :
 Praying's the end of preaching. O be drest ;
 Stay not for th' other pin : why thou hast lost
 A joy for it worth worlds. Thus hell doth jest
 Away thy blessings, and extreamly flout thee,
 Thy clothes being fast, but thy soul loose about thee.

In time of service seal up both thine eies,
 And send them to thine heart ; that spying sinne,
 They may weep out the stains by them did rise :
 Those doores being shut, all by the eare comes in.
 Who marks in church-time others symmetrie,
 Makes all their beautie his deformitie.

Let vain or busie thoughts have there no part :
Bring not thy plough, thy plots, thy pleasures thither.
Christ purg'd his temple ; so must thou thy heart.
All worldly thoughts are but theeves met together
 To couzin thee. Look to thy actions well ;
 For churches either are our heav'n or hell.

Judge not the preacher ; for he is thy Judge :
If thou mislike him, thou conceiv'st him not.
God calleth preaching folly. Do not grudge
To pick out treasures from an earthen pot.
 The worst speak something good : if all want sense,
 God takes a text, and preacheth patience.

He that gets patience, and the blessing which
Preachers conclude with, hath not lost his pains.
He that by being at church escapes the ditch,
Which he might fall in by companions, gains.
 He that loves Gods abode, and to combine
 With saints on earth, shall one day with them shine.

Jest not at preachers language, or expression :
How know'st thou, but thy sinnes made him miscarrie ?
Then turn thy faults and his into confession :
God sent him, whatsoe'er he be : O tarry,
 And love him for his Master : his condition,
 Though it be ill, makes him no ill Physician.

None shall in hell such bitter pangs endure
As those, who mock at Gods way of salvation.
Whom oil and balsames kill, what salve can cure ?
They drink with greedinesse a full damnation.
 The Jews refused thunder ; and we, folly.
 Though God do hedge us in, yet who is holy ?

Summe up at night, what thou hast done by day ;
And in the morning, what thou hast to do.
Dresse and undresse thy soul : mark the decay
And growth of it : if with thy watch, that too
 Be down, then winde up both, since we shall be
 Most surely judg'd, make thy accounts agree.

In brief, acquit thee bravely ; play the man.
Look not on pleasures as they come, but go.
Defer not the least vertue : lifes poore span
Make not an ell, by trifling in thy wo.
 If thou do ill, the joy fades, not the pains :
 If well ; the pain doth fade, the joy remains.



SUPERLIMINARE.

THOU, whom the former precepts have
Sprinkled and taught, how to behave
Thy self in church ; approach, and taste
The churches mysticall repast.

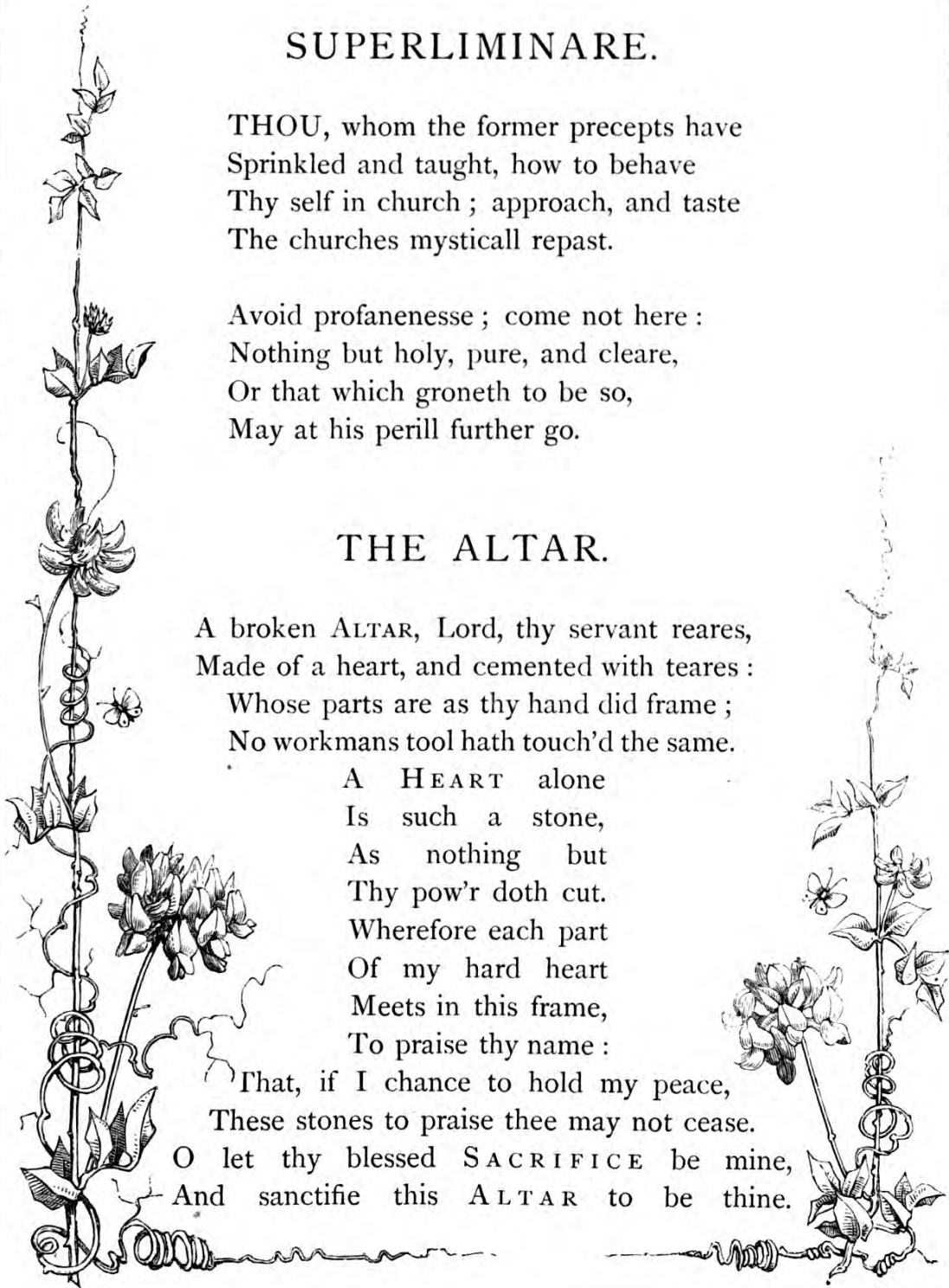
Avoid profanenesse ; come not here :
Nothing but holy, pure, and cleare,
Or that which groneth to be so,
May at his perill further go.

THE ALTAR.

A broken ALTAR, Lord, thy servant reares,
Made of a heart, and cemented with teares :
Whose parts are as thy hand did frame ;
No workmans tool hath touch'd the same.

A HEART alone
Is such a stone,
As nothing but
Thy pow'r doth cut.
Wherefore each part
Of my hard heart
Meets in this frame,
To praise thy name :

That, if I chance to hold my peace,
These stones to praise thee may not cease.
O let thy blessed SACRIFICE be mine,
And sanctifie this ALTAR to be thine.





THE
SACRIFICE

Oh all ye, who passe by, whose eyes and minde
To worldly things are sharp, but to me blinde ;
To me, who took eyes that I might you finde :
Was ever grief like mine ?

The Princes of my people make a head
Against their Maker : they do wish me dead,
Who cannot wish, except I give them bread :
Was ever grief like mine ?

Without me each one, who doth now me brave,
Had to this day been an Egyptian slave.
They use that power against me, which I gave :
Was ever grief like mine ?

Mine own Apostle, who the bag did beare,
Though he had all I had, did not forbear
To sell me also, and to put me there :

Was ever grief like mine ?

For thirtie pence he did my death devise,
Who at three hundred did the ointment prize,
Not half so sweet as my sweet sacrifice :

Was ever grief like mine ?

Cherefore my soul melts, and my hearts deare treasure
Drops bloud (the only beads) my words to measure :
O let this cup passe, if it be thy pleasure :

Was ever grief like mine ?

These drops being temper'd with a sinners tears,
A Balsome are for both the Hemispheres,
Curing all wounds, but mine ; all, but my fears :

Was ever grief like mine ?

Yet my Disciples sleep : I cannot gain
One houre of watching ; but their drowsie brain
Comforts not me, and doth my doctrine stain :

Was ever grief like mine ?

Arise, arise, they come. Look how they runne !
Alas ! what haste they make to be undone !
How with their lanterns do they seek the sunne !

Was ever grief like mine ?

With clubs and staves they seek me, as a thief,
Who am the way of truth, the true relief,
Most true to those who are my greatest grief :

Was ever grief like mine ?



*J*udges dost thou betray me with a kisse?
 Canst thou finde hell about my lips? and misse
 Of life, just at the gates of life and blisse?
Was ever grief like mine?

See, they lay hold on me, not with the hands
 Of faith, but furie; yet at their commands
 I suffer binding, who have loos'd their bands:
Was ever grief like mine?

All my Disciples flie ; fear puts a barre
Betwixt my friends and me. They leave the starre,
That brought the wise men of the East from farre :
Was ever grief like mine ?

Then from one ruler to another bound
They leade me : urging, that it was not sound
What I taught : Comments would the text confound.
Was ever grief like mine ?

The Priests and rulers all false witsesse seek
'Gainst him, who seeks not life, but is the meek
And readie Paschal Lambe of this great week :
Was ever grief like mine ?

Then they accuse me of great blasphemie,
That I did thrust into the Deitie,
Who never thought that any robberie :
Was ever grief like mine ?

Some said, that I the Temple to the floore
In three days raz'd, and raised as before.
Why, he that built the world can do much more :
Was ever grief like mine ?

Then they condemne me all, with that same breath,
Which I do give them daily, unto death.
Thus *Adam* my first breathing rendereth :
Was ever grief like mine ?

They binde, and leade me unto *Herod* : he
Sends me to *Pilate*. This makes them agree ;
But yet their friendship is my enmitie :
Was ever grief like mine ?

Herod and all his bands do set me light,
 Who teach all hands to warre, fingers to fight,
 And onely am the Lord of hosts and might :
Was ever grief like mine ?

Herod in judgment sits, while I do stand ;
 Examines me with a censorious hand :
 I him obey, who all things else command :
Was ever grief like mine ?

The *Jews* accuse me with despitefulnesse ;
 And vying malice with my gentlenesse,
 Pick quarrels with their onely happinesse :
Was ever grief like mine ?

I answer nothing, but with patience prove
 If stonie hearts will melt with gentle love.
 But who does hawk at eagles with a dove ?
Was ever grief like mine ?

My silence rather doth augment their crie ;
 My dove doth back into my bosom flie,
 Because the raging waters still are high :
Was ever grief like mine ?

Hark, how they crie aloud still, *Crucifie* :
It is not fit he live a day, they crie,
 Who cannot live lesse than eternally :
Was ever grief like mine ?

Pilate a stranger holdeth off ; but they,
 Mine own deare people, cry, *Away, Away*,
 With noises confused frightening the day :
Was ever grief like mine ?

Yet still they shout, and crie, and stop their eares,
Putting my life among their sinnes and fears,
And therefore wish *my bloud on them and theirs* :
Was ever grief like mine ?

See how spite cankers things. These words aright
Used, and wished, are the whole worlds light :
But hony is their gall, brightnesse their night :
Was ever grief like mine ?

They choose a murderer, and all agree
In him to do themselves a courtesie ;
For it was their own cause who killed me :
Was ever grief like mine ?

And a seditious murderer he was :
But I the Prince of Peace ; peace that doth passe
All understanding, more than heav'n doth glasse :
Was ever grief like mine ?

Why, Cesar is their onely King, not I :
He clave the stonie rock, when they were drie ;
But surely not their hearts, as I well trie :
Was ever grief like mine ?

Ah ! how they scourge me ! yet my tendernesse
Doubles each lash : and yet their bitternesse
Windes up my grief to a mysteriousnesse :
Was ever grief like mine ?

They buffet me, and box me as they list,
Who grasp the earth and heaven with my fist,
And never yet, whom I would punish, miss'd :
Was ever grief like mine ?

Behold, they spit on me in scornfull wise ;
 Who by my spittle gave the blinde man eies,
 Leaving his blindnesse to mine enemies :

Was ever grief like mine ?

My face they cover, though it be divine.
 As *Moses* face was veiled, so is mine,
 Lest on their double-dark souls either shine :

Was ever grief like mine ?

Servants and abjects flout me ; they are wittie :
Now prophesy who strikes thee, is their dittie.
 So they in me denie themselves all pitie :

Was ever grief like mine ?

And now I am deliver'd unto death,
 Which each one cals for so with utmost breath,
 That he before me well-nigh suffereth :

Was ever grief like mine ?

Weep not, deare friends, since I for both have wept
 When all my tears were bloud, the while you slept :
 Your tears for your own fortunes should be kept :

Was ever grief like mine ?

The souldiers lead me to the common hall ;
 There they deride me, they abuse me all :
 Yet for twelve heav'nly legions I could call :

Was ever grief like mine ?

Then with a scarlet robe they me aray ;
 Which shews my bloud to be the onely way,
 And cordiall left to repair mans decay :

Was ever grief like mine ?



WHEN on my head a crown of thorns I wear ;
For these are all the grapes *Sion* doth bear,
Though I my vine planted and wated there:
Was ever grief like mine?

So sits the earths great curse in *Adams* fall
 Upon my head ; so I remove it all
 From th' earth unto my brows, and bear th' thrall :
Was ever grief like mine ?

Then with the reed they gave to me before,
 They strike my head, the rock from whence all store
 Of heav'nly blessings issue evermore :
Was ever grief like mine ?

They bow their knees to me, and cry, *Hail king* :
 What ever scoffes or scornfulnesse can bring,
 I am the floore, the sink, where they it fling :
Was ever grief like mine ?

Yet since man's scepters are as frail as reeds,
 And thorny all their crowns, bloudie their weeds ;
 I, who am Truth, turn into truth their deeds :
Was ever grief like mine ?

The souldiers also spit upon that face
 Which Angels did desire to have the grace,
 And Prophets once to see, but found no place :
Was ever grief like mine ?

Thus trimmed forth they bring me to the rout,
 Who *Crucifie him*, crie with one strong shout.
 God holds his peace at man, and man cries out :
Was ever grief like mine ?

They leade me in once more, and putting then
 Mine own clothes on, they leade me out agen.
 Whom devils flie, thus is he toss'd of men :
Was ever grief like mine ?

And now wearie of sport, glad to ingrosse
All spite in one, counting my life their losse,
They carrie me to my most bitter crosse :

Was ever grief like mine ?

My crosse I bear my self, untill I faint :
Then Simon bears it for me by constraint,
The decreed burden of each mortall Saint :

Was ever grief like mine ?

O all ye, who passe by, behold and see :
Man stole the fruit, but I must climbe the tree ;
The tree of life to all, but onely me :

Was ever grief like mine ?

Lo, here I hang, charg'd with a world of sinne,
The greater world o' th' two ; for that came in
By words, but this by sorrow I must win :

Was ever grief like mine ?

Such sorrow, as if sinful man could feel,
Or feel his part, he would not cease to kneel,
Till all were melted, though he were all steel :

Was ever grief like mine ?

But, *O my God, my God !* why leav'st thou me,
The sonne, in whom thou dost delight to be ?

My God, my God ———

Never was grief like mine.

Shame tears my soul, my bodie many a wound ;
Sharp nails pierce this, but sharper that confound ;
Reproaches, which are free, while I am bound :

Was ever grief like mine ?

Now heal thyself, Physician ; now come down.
Alas ! I did so, when I left my crown
And fathers smile for you, to feel his frown :
Was ever grief like mine ?

In healing not myself, there doth consist
All that salvation, which ye now resist ;
Your safetie in my sicknesse doth subsist :
Was ever grief like mine ?

Betwixt two theeves I spend my utmost breath,
As he that for some robbetrie suffereth,
Alas ! what have I stollen from you ? death :
Was ever grief like mine ?

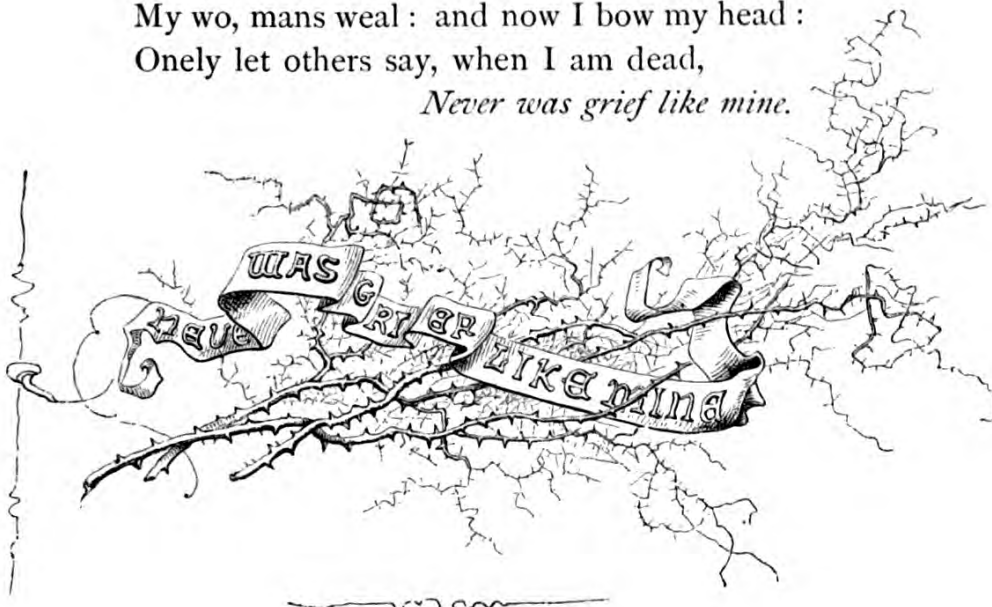
A king my title is, prefixt on high ;
Yet by my subjects am condemn'd to die
A servile death in servile companie :
Was ever grief like mine ?

They gave me vinegar mingled with gall,
But more with malice : yet, when they did call,
With Manna, Angels food, I fed them all :
Was ever grief like mine ?

They part my garments, and by lot dispose
My coat, the type of love, which once cur'd those
Who sought for help, never malicious foes :
Was ever grief like mine ?

Nay, after death their spite shall further go ;
For they will pierce my side, I full well know ;
That as sinne came, so Sacraments might flow :
Was ever grief like mine ?

But now I die ; now all is finished.
My wo, mans weal : and now I bow my head :
Onely let others say, when I am dead,
Never was grief like mine.



THE THANKSGIVING.

OH King of grief ! (a title strange, yet true,
To thee of all kings onely due)
Oh King of wounds ! how shall I grieve for thee,
Who in all grief preventest me ?
Shall I weep bloud ? why, thou hast wept such store,
That all thy body was one doore.
Shall I be scourged, flouted, boxed, sold ?
'Tis but to tell the tale is told.
My God, my God, why dost thou part from me ?
Was such a grief as cannot be.
Shall I then sing, skipping, thy dolefull storie,
And side with thy triumphant glorie ?
Shall thy strokes be my stroking ? thorns, my flower ?
Thy rod, my posie ? crosse, my bower ?
But how then shall I imitate thee, and
Copie thy fair, though bloudie hand ?



S I will revenge me on thy love,
 And trie who shall victorious prove.
 If thou dost give me wealth ; I will restore
 All back unto thee by the poore.
 If thou dost give me honour ; men shall see,
 The honour doth belong to thee.
 I will not marry ; or, if she be mine,
 She and her children shall be thine.
 My bosome friend, if he blaspheme thy name,
 I will tear thence his love and fame.
 One half of me being gone, the rest I give
 Unto some Chapell, die or live.

As for thy passion—But of that anon,
When with the other I have done.
For thy predestination, I'll contrive,
That three years hence, if I survive,
I'll build a spittle, or mend common wayes,
But mend mine own without delayes.
Then I will use the works of thy creation,
As if I us'd them but for fashion.
The world and I will quarrell ; and the yeare
Shall not perceive, that I am here.
Musick shall finde thee, and ev'ry string
Shall have his attribute to sing ;
That all together may accord in thee,
And prove one God, one harmonie.
If thou shalt give me wit, it shall appeare,
If thou hast giv'n it me, 'tis here.
Nay, I will reade thy booke, and never move
Till I have found therein thy love ;
Thy art of love, which I'll turn back on thee,
Oh my deare Saviour, Victorie !
Then for thy passion—I will do for that—
Alas, my God, I know not what.

THE REPRISALL.

I HAVE consider'd it, and finde
There is no dealing with thy mighty passion :
For though I die for thee I am behinde ;
My sinnes deserve the condemnation.

O make me innocent, that I
 May give a disentangled state and free ;
 And yet thy wounds still my attempts defie,
 For by thy death I die for thee.

Ah ! was it not enough that thou
 By thy eternall glorie didst outgo me ?
 Couldst thou not griefs sad conquests me allow,
 But in all vict'ries overthrow me ?

Yet by confession will I come
 Into the conquest. Though I can do nought
 Against thee, in thee I will overcome
 The man, who once against thee fought.



THE AGONIE.

PHILOSOPHERS have measur'd mountains,
 Fathom'd the depths of seas, of states, and kings,
 Walk'd with a staffe to heav'n, and traced fountains :
 But there are two vast, spacious things,
 The which to measure it doth more behove :
 Yet few there are that sound them ; Sinne and Love.

Who would know Sinne, let him repair
 Unto mount Olivet ; there shall he see
 A man so wrung with pains, that all his hair,
 His skinne, his garments bloudie be.
 Sinne is that presse and vice, which forceth pain
 To hunt his cruell food through ev'ry vein.



WHO knows not Love, let him assay,
And taste that juice, which on the crosse a pike
Did set again abroach ; then let him say
If ever he did taste the like.
Love is that liquour sweet and most divine,
Which my God feels as bloud ; but I, as wine.

THE SINNER.

LORD, how I am all ague, when I seek
 What I have treasur'd in my memorie !
 Since, if my soul make even with the week,
 Each seventh note by right is due to thee.
 I finde there quarries of pil'd vanities,
 But shreds of holinesse, that dare not venture
 To shew their face, since crosse to thy decrees :
 There the circumference earth is, heav'n the centre.
 In so much dregs the quintessence is small :
 The spirit and good extract of my heart
 Comes to about the many hundredth part.
 Yet, Lord, restore thine image, heare my call :
 And though my hard heart scarce to thee can grone,
 Remember that thou once didst write in stone.

GOOD FRIDAY.

O MY chief good,
 How shall I measure out thy bloud ?
 How shall I count what thee befell,
 And each grief tell ?

Shall I thy woes
 Number according to thy foes ?
 Or, since one starre show'd thy first breath,
 Shall all thy death ?

Or shall each leaf,
 Which falls in Autumne, score a grief ?
 Or cannot leaves, but fruit, be signe,
 Of the true vine ?

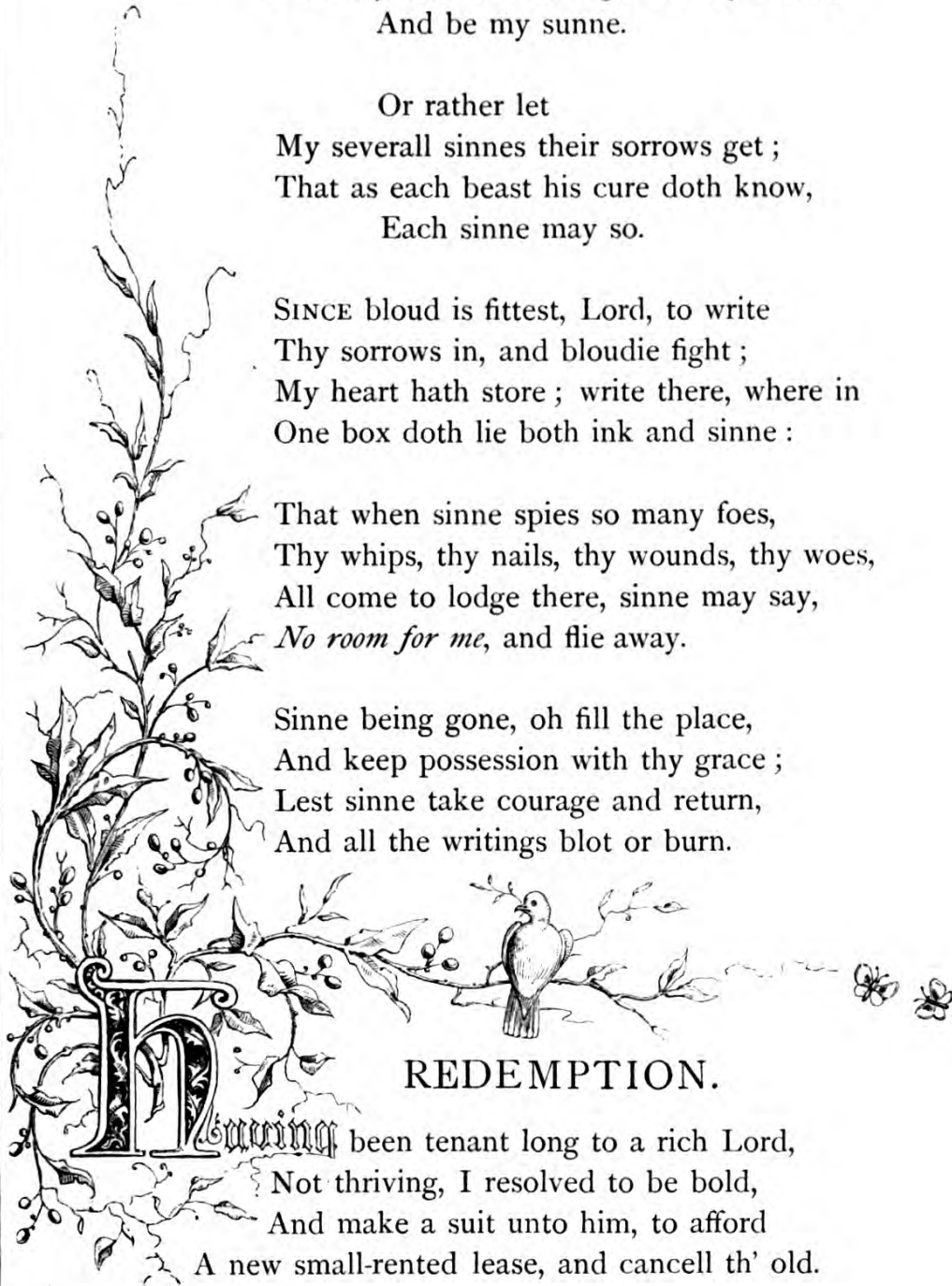
Then let each houre
Of my whole life one grief devoure ;
That thy distresse through all may runne,
And be my sunne.

Or rather let
My severall sinnes their sorrows get ;
That as each beast his cure doth know,
Each sinne may so.

SINCE bloud is fittest, Lord, to write
Thy sorrows in, and bloudie fight ;
My heart hath store ; write there, where in
One box doth lie both ink and sinne :

That when sinne spies so many foes,
Thy whips, thy nails, thy wounds, thy woes,
All come to lodge there, sinne may say,
No room for me, and flie away.

Sinne being gone, oh fill the place,
And keep possession with thy grace ;
Lest sinne take courage and return,
And all the writings blot or burn.




REDEMPTION.

Having been tenant long to a rich Lord,
Not thriving, I resolved to be bold,
And make a suit unto him, to afford
A new small-rented lease, and cancell th' old.

In heaven at his manour I him sought :
 They told me there, that he was lately gone
 About some land, which he had dearly bought
 Long since on earth, to take possession.

I straight return'd, and knowing his great birth,
 Sought him accordingly in great resorts ;
 In cities, theatres, gardens, parks, and courts :
 At length I heard a ragged noise and mirth
 Of theeves and murderers : there I him espied,
 Who straight, *Your suit is granted*, said, and died.

SEPULCHRE.



BLESSED bodie ! Whither art thou thrown ?
 No lodging for thee, but a cold hard stone ?
 So many hearts on earth, and yet not one
 Receive thee ?

Sure there is room within our heart's good store ;
 For they can lodge transgressions by the score :
 Thousands of toys dwell there, yet out of doore
 They leave thee.

But that which shews them large, shews them unfit.
 Whatever sinne did this pure rock commit,
 Which holds thee now ? Who hath indited it
 Of murder ?

Where our hard hearts have took up stones to brain thee,
 And missing this, most falsely did arraigne thee ;
 Onely these stones in quiet entertain thee,
 And order.

And as of old, the law by heav'nly art,
Was writ in stone ; so thou, which also art
The letter of the word, find'st no fit heart
To hold thee.

Yet do we still persist as we began,
And so should perish, but that nothing can,
Though it be cold, hard, foul, from loving man
Withhold thee.

EASTER.

RISE heart ; thy Lord is risen. Sing his praise
Without delays,
Who takes thee by the hand, that thou likewise
With him mayst rise :
That, as his death calcined thee to dust,
His life may make thee gold, and much more just.

Awake, my lute, and struggle for thy part
With all thy art.
The crosse taught all wood to resound his name
Who bore the same.
His stretched sinews taught all strings, what key
Is best to celebrate this most high day.

Consort both heart and lute, and twist a song
Pleasant and long :
Or since all musick is but three parts vied,
And multiplied ;
O let thy blessed Spirit bear a part,
And make up our defects with his sweet art.

I got me flowers to straw thy way ;
I got me boughs off many a tree :
But thou wast up by break of day,
And brought'st thy sweets along with thee.



The Sunne arising in the East,
Though he give light, and th' East perfume ;
If they should offer to contest
With thy arising, they presume.

Can there be any day but this,
Though many sunnes to shine endeavour?
We count three hundred, but we misse :
There is but one, and that one ever.



EASTER-WINGS.

ORD, who createdst man in wealth and store,
Though foolishly he lost the same,
Decaying more and more,
Till he became
Most poor :

With thee
O let me rise
As larks, harmoniously,
And sing this day thy victories :
Then shall the fall further the flight in me.

MY tender age in sorrow did beginne :
And still with sicknesses and shame
Thou didst so punish sinne,
That I became
Most thinne.

With thee
Let me combine,
And feel this day thy victorie,
For, if I imp my wing on thine,
Affliction shall advance the flight in me.

HOLY BAPTISME.

AS he that sees a dark and shady grove,
 Stayes not, but looks beyond it on the skie ;
 So when I view my sinnes, mine eyes remove
 More backward still, and to that water flie,

Which is above the heav'ns, whose spring and rent
 Is in my dear Redeemers pierced side.
 O blessed streams ! either ye do prevent
 And stop our sinnes from growing thick and wide,

Or else give tears to drown them, as they grow.
 In you Redemption measures all my time,
 And spreads the plaister equall to the crime :
 You taught the book of life my name, that so,

Whatever future sinnes should me miscall,
 Your first acquaintance might discredit all.

HOLY BAPTISME.

SINCE, Lord, to thee
 A narrow way and little gate
 Is all the passage, on my infancie
 Thou didst lay hold, and antedate
 My faith in me.

O let me still
 Write thee great God, and me a childe :
 Let me be soft and supple to thy will,
 Small to myself, to others milde,
 Behither ill.

Although by stealth
My flesh get on ; yet let her sister
My soul bid nothing, but preserve her wealth :
The growth of flesh is but a blister ;
Childhood is health.



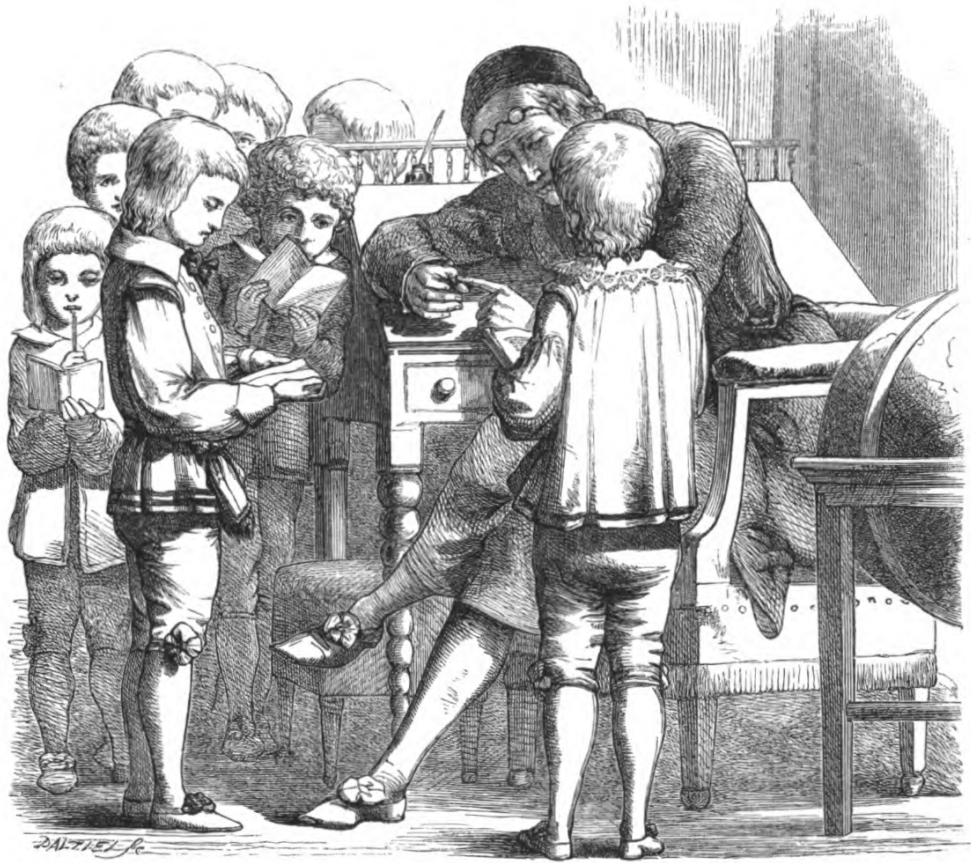
NATURE.

FULL of rebellion, I would die,
Or fight, or travell, or denie
That thou hast ought to do with me.

O tame my heart ;
It is thy highest art
To captivate strong holds to thee.

If thou shalt let this venome lurk,
And in suggestions fume and work,
My soul will turn to bubbles straight,
And thence by kinde
Vanish into a winde,
Making thy workmanship deceit.

O smooth my rugged heart, and there
Engrave thy rev'rend law and fear ;
Or make a new one, since the old
Is saplesse grown,
And a much fitter stone
To hide my dust, then thee to hold.



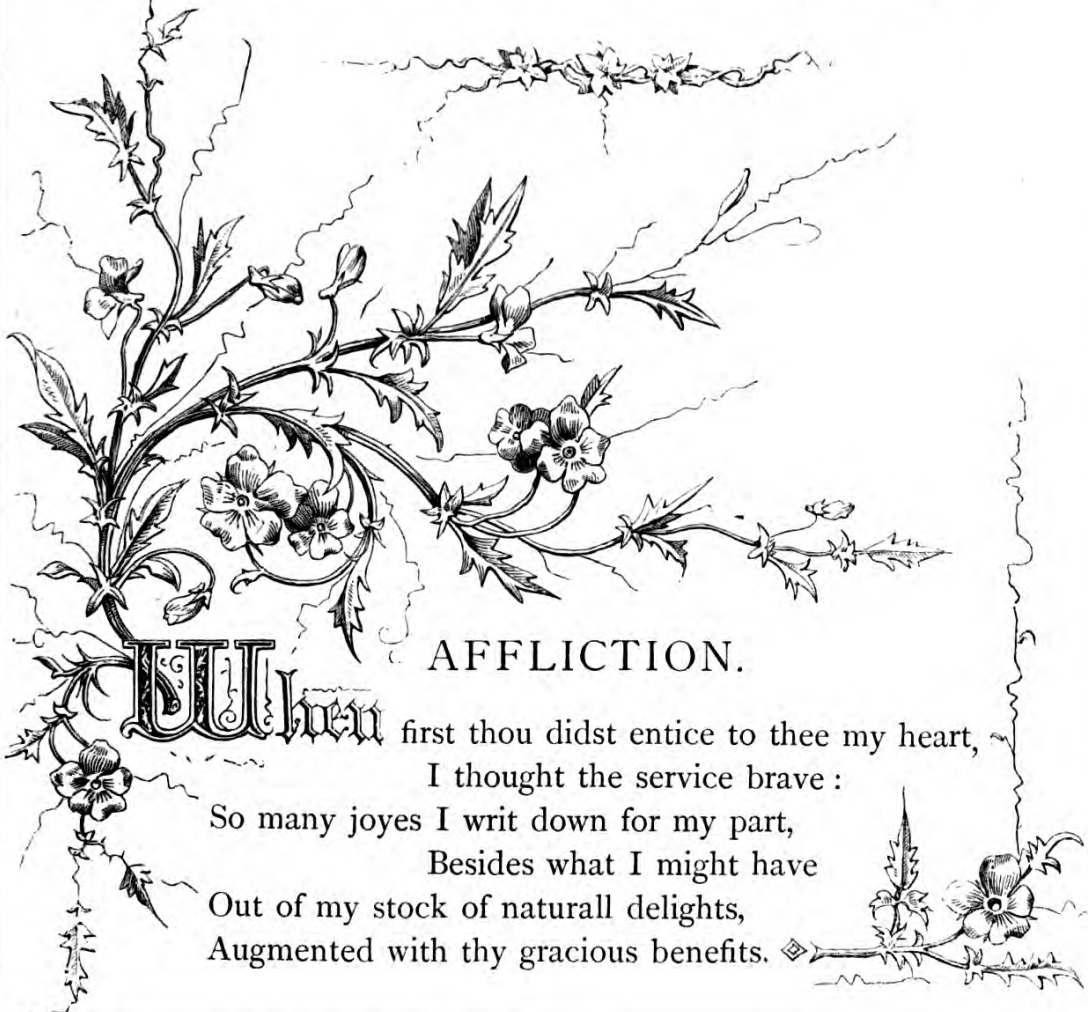
SINNA

LORD, with what care hast thou begirt us round !
Parents first season us : then schoolmasters
Deliver us to laws ; they send us bound
To rules of reason, holy messengers,

Pulpits and sundayes, sorrow dogging sinne,
Afflictions sorted, anguish of all sizes,
Fine nets and stratagems to catch us in,
Bibles laid open, millions of surprises,

Blessings beforehand, tyes of gratefulnessse,
The sound of glorie ringing in our eares ;
Without, our shame ; within, our consciences ;
Angels and grace, eternall hopes and fears.

Yet all these fences and their whole aray
One cunning bosome-sinne blows quite away.

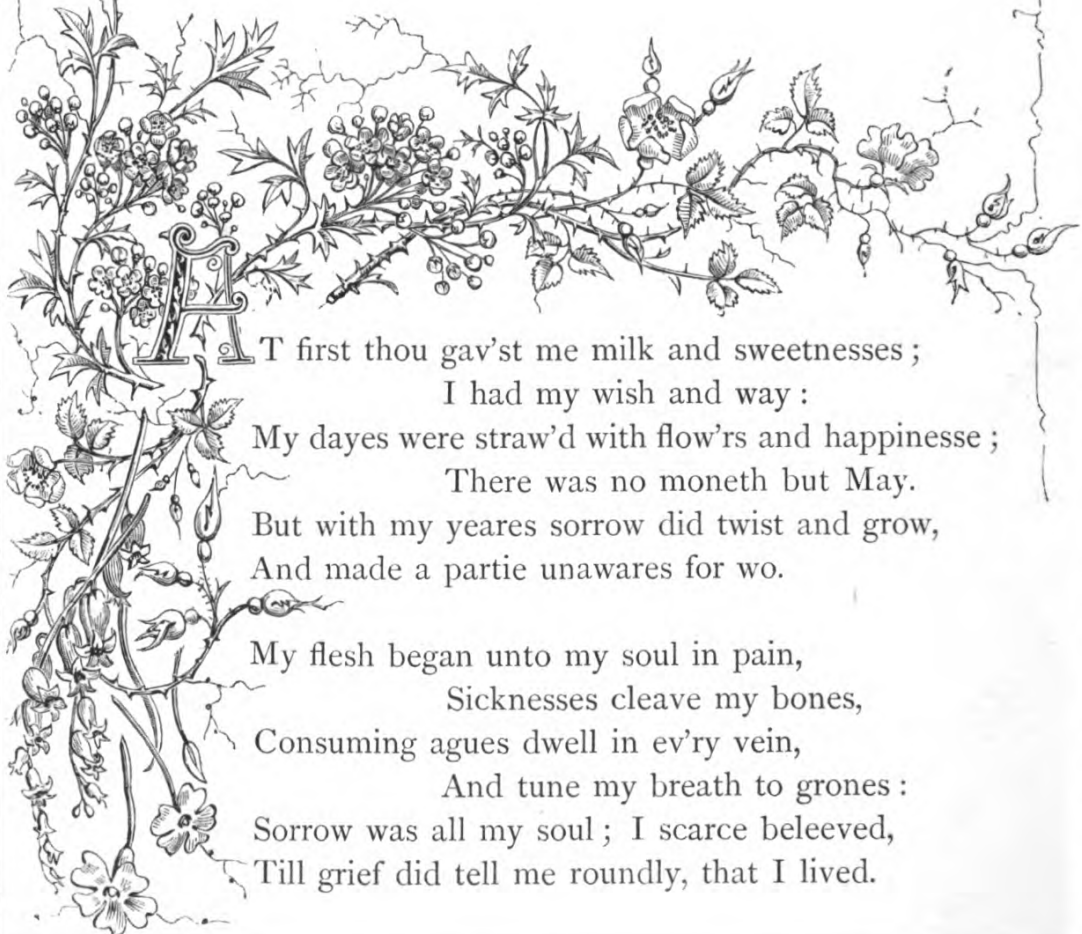


WHEN AFFLICTION.

When first thou didst entice to thee my heart,
I thought the service brave :
So many joyes I writ down for my part,
Besides what I might have
Out of my stock of naturall delights,
Augmented with thy gracious benefits.

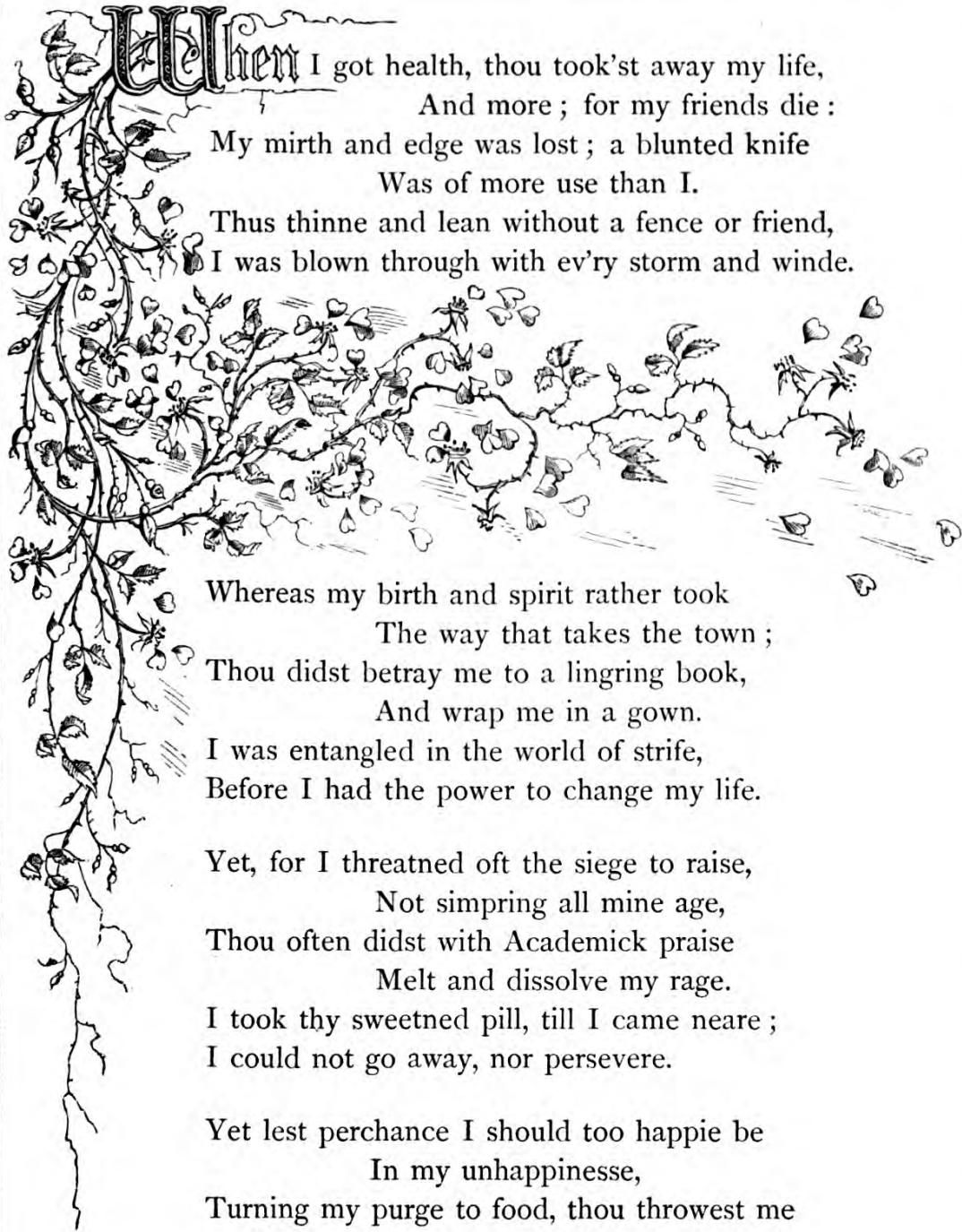
I looked on thy furniture so fine,
 And made it fine to me ;
 Thy glorious household-stuffe did me entwine,
 And 'tice me unto thee.
 Such starres I counted mine : both heav'n and earth
 Payd me my wages in a world of mirth.

What pleasures could I want, whose King I served,
 Where joyes my fellows were ?
 Thus argu'd into hopes, my thoughts reserved
 No place for grief or fear ;
 Therefore my sudden soul caught at the place,
 And made her youth and fiercenesse seek thy face :



AT first thou gav'st me milk and sweetnesses ;
 I had my wish and way :
 My dayes were straw'd with flow'rs and happinesse ;
 There was no moneth but May.
 But with my yeares sorrow did twist and grow,
 And made a partie unawares for wo.

My flesh began unto my soul in pain,
 Sicknesse cleave my bones,
 Consuming agues dwell in ev'ry vein,
 And tune my breath to grones :
 Sorrow was all my soul ; I scarce beleved,
 Till grief did tell me roundly, that I lived.

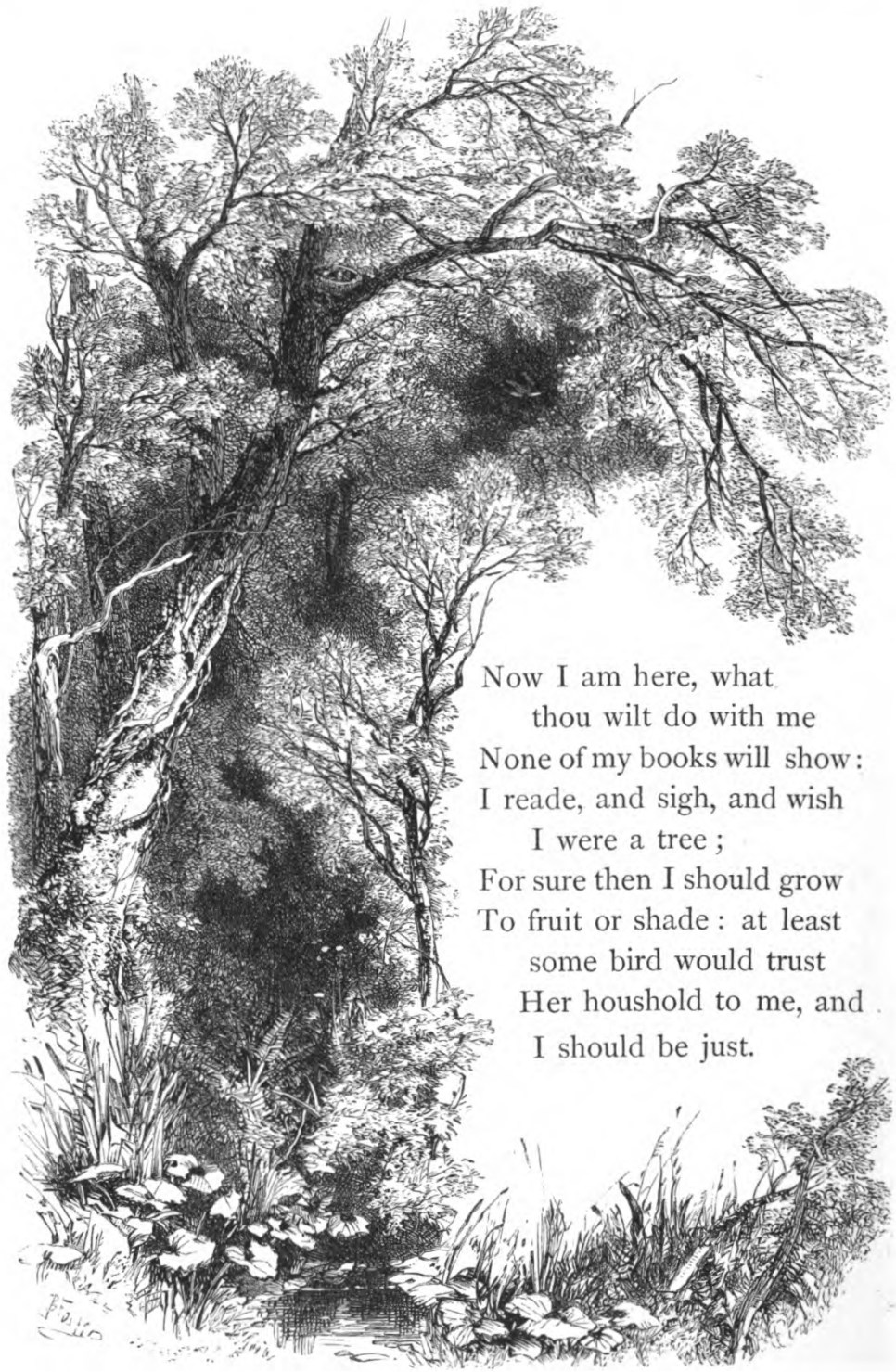


When I got health, thou took'st away my life,
And more ; for my friends die :
My mirth and edge was lost ; a blunted knife
Was of more use than I.
Thus thinne and lean without a fence or friend,
I was blown through with ev'ry storm and winde.

Whereas my birth and spirit rather took
The way that takes the town ;
Thou didst betray me to a lingring book,
And wrap me in a gown.
I was entangled in the world of strife,
Before I had the power to change my life.

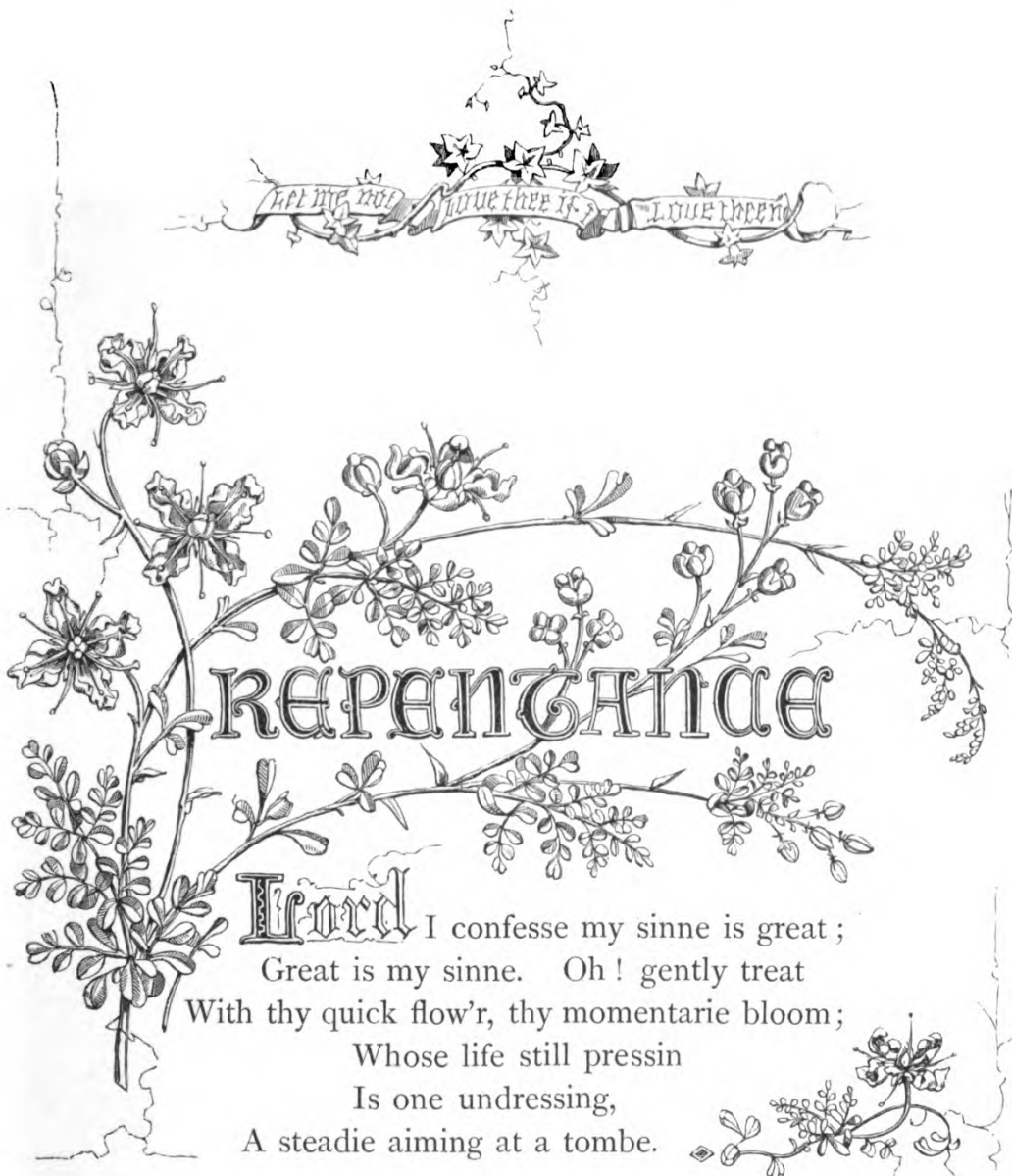
Yet, for I threatned oft the siege to raise,
Not simpring all mine age,
Thou often didst with Academick praise
Melt and dissolve my rage.
I took thy sweetned pill, till I came neare ;
I could not go away, nor persevere.

Yet lest perchance I should too happie be
In my unhappinesse,
Turning my purge to food, thou throwest me
Into more sicknesses.
Thus doth thy power cross-bias me, not making
Thine own gift good, yet me from my ways taking.



Now I am here, what
 thou wilt do with me
None of my books will show:
I read, and sigh, and wish
 I were a tree;
For sure then I should grow
To fruit or shade: at least
 some bird would trust
Her houshold to me, and
 I should be just.

Yet, though thou troublest me, I must be meek ;
In weaknesse must be stout.
Well, I will change the service, and go seek
Some other master out.
Ah my deare God ! though I am clean forgot,
Let me not love thee, if I love thee not.



Mans age is two houres work, or three ;
Each day doth round about us see.
Thus are we to delights : but we are all
 To sorrows old,
 If life be told
From what life feeleth, Adams fall.

O let thy height of mercie then
Compassionate short-breathed men,
Cut me not off for my most foul transgression :
 I do confesse
 My foolishnesse ;
My God, accept of my confession.

Sweeten at length this bitter bowl,
Which thou hast pour'd into my soul ;
Thy wormwood turn to health, windes to fair weather :
 For if thou stay,
 I and this day,
As we did rise, we die together.

When thou for sinne rebukest man,
Forthwith he waxeth wo and wan :
Bitternesse fills our bowels ; all our hearts
 Pine, and decay,
 And drop away,
And carrie with them th' other parts.

But thou wilt sinne and grief destroy ;
That so the broken bones may joy,
And tune together in a well-set song,
 Full of his praises
 Who dead men raises.
Fractures well cur'd make us more strong.



FAITH.

Lord how couldst thou so much appease
Thy wrath forsinne, as when mans sight was dimme,
And could see little, to regard his ease,
And bring by Faith all things to him ?

Hungrie I was, and had no meat :
I did conceit a most delicious feast ;
I had it straight, and did as truly eat,
As ever did a welcome guest.

There is a rare outlandish root,
Which when I could not get, I thought it here :
That apprehension cur'd so well my foot,
That I can walk to heav'n well neare.

I owed thousands and much more :
I did believe that I did nothing owe,
And liv'd accordingly ; my creditor
Beleaves so too, and lets me go.

Faith makes me any thing, or all
That I beleeve is in the sacred storie :
And where sinne placeth me in Adams fall,
Faith sets me higher in his glorie.

If I go lower in the book,
What can be lower than the common manger ?
Faith puts me there with him, who sweetly took
Our flesh and frailtie, death and danger.

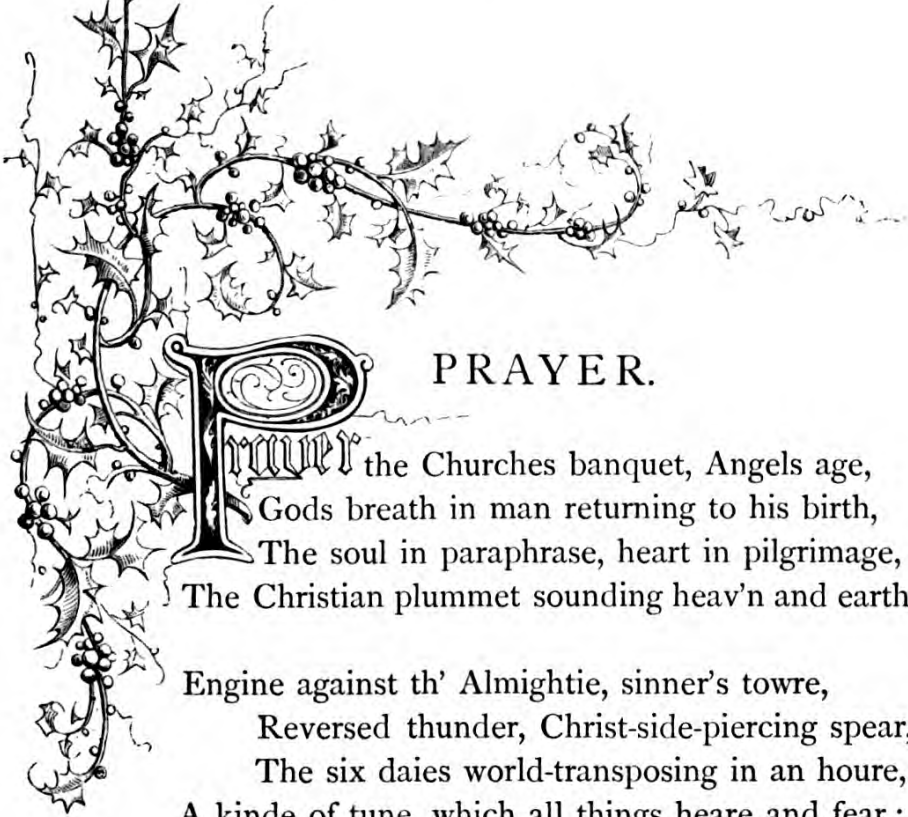
If blisse had lien in art or strength,
None but the wise or strong had gained it :
Where now by Faith all arms are of a length ;
One size doth all conditions fit.

A peasant may beleeve as much
As a great Clerk, and reach the highest stature.
Thus dost thou make proud knowledge bend and crouch,
While grace fills up uneven nature.

When creatures had no reall light
Inherent in them, thou didst make the sunne,
Impute a lustre, and allow them bright :
And in this shew, what Christ hath done.

That which before was darkned clean
With bushie groves, pricking the lookers eie,
Vanisht away, when Faith did change the scene :
And then appear'd a glorious skie.

What though my bodie run to dust ?
Faith cleaves unto it, counting ev'ry grain,
With an exact and most particular trust,
Reserving all for flesh again.



PRAYER.

Prayer the Churches banquet, Angels age,
Gods breath in man returning to his birth,
The soul in paraphrase, heart in pilgrimage,
The Christian plummet sounding heav'n and earth ;

Engine against th' Almighty, sinner's towre,
Reversed thunder, Christ-side-piercing spear,
The six daies world-transposing in an houre,
A kinde of tune, which all things heare and fear ;

Softnesse, and peace, and joy, and love, and blisse,
 Exalted Manna, gladnesse of the best,
 Heaven in ordinarie, man well drest,
 The milkie way, the bird of Paradise,

Church-bels beyond the stars heard, the souls bloud,
 The land of spices, something understood.

THE HOLY COMMUNION.

NOT in rich furniture, or fine aray,
 Nor in a wedge of gold,
 Thou, who from me wast sold,
 To me dost now thyself convey ;
 For so thou should'st without me still have been,
 Leaving within me sinne :

But by the way of nourishment and strength,
 Thou creep'st into my breast ;
 Making thy way my rest,
 And thy small quantities my length ;
 Which spread their forces into every part,
 Meeting sinnes force and art.

Yet can these not get over to my soul,
 Leaping the wall that parts
 Our souls and fleshly hearts ;
 But as th' outworks, they may controll
 My rebel-flesh, and carrying thy name,
 Affright both sinne and shame.

Onely thy grace, which with these elements comes,
 Knoweth the ready way,

And hath the privie key,
Op'ning the souls most subtile rooms :
While those to spirits refin'd, at doore attend
Despatches from their friend.

GIVE me my captive soul, or take
My body also thither.
Another lift like this will make
Them both to be together.

Before that sinne turn'd flesh to stone,
And all our lump to leaven ;
A fervent sigh might well have blown
Our innocent earth to heaven.

For sure when Adam did not know
To sinne, or sinne to smother ;
He might to heav'n from Paradise go,
As from one room t' another.

Thou hast restor'd us to this ease
By this thy heav'nly bloud,
Which I can go to, when I please,
And leave th' earth to their food.

ANTIPHON.

Cho. LET all the world in ev'ry corner sing,
My God and King.

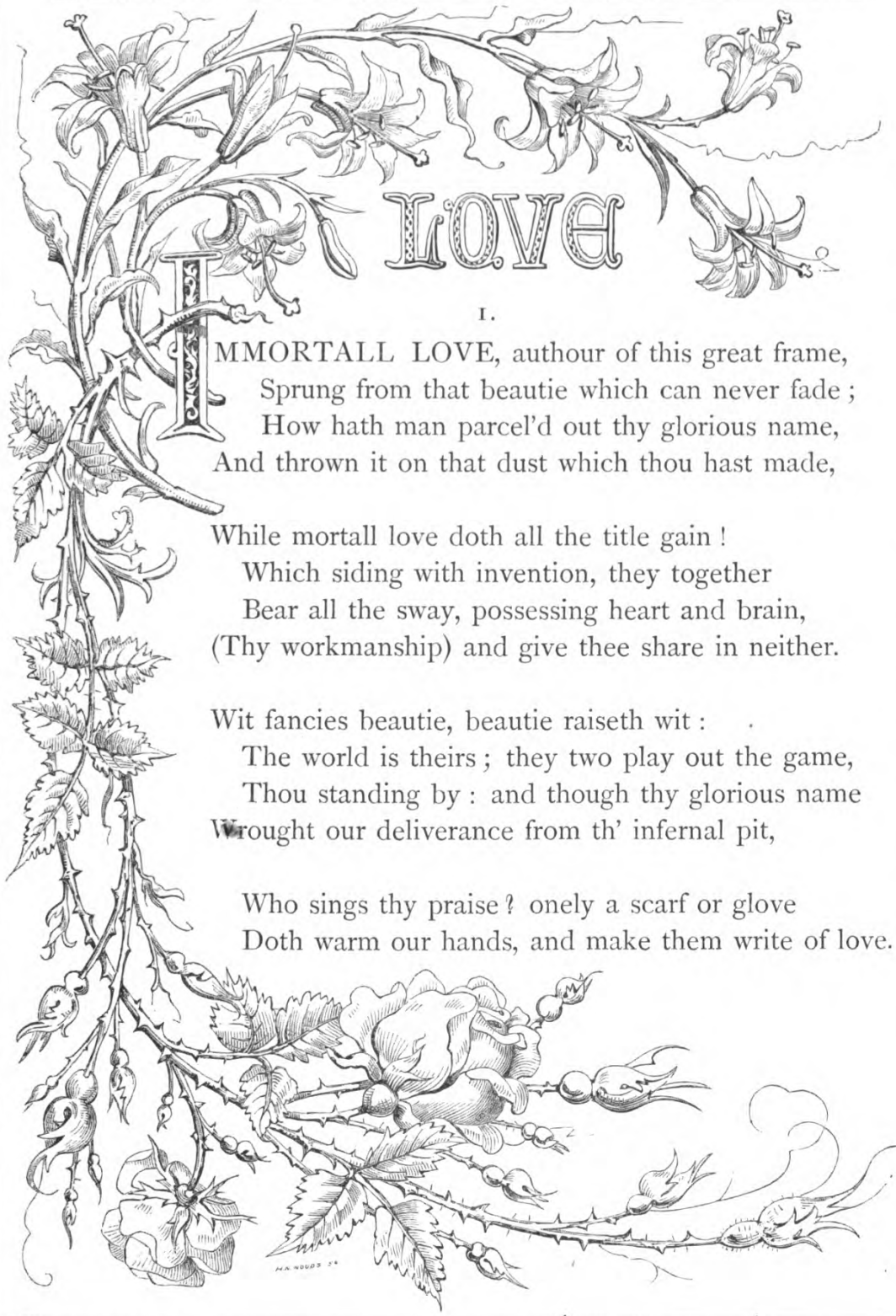
Vers. The heav'ns are not too high,
His praise may thither flie :
The earth is not too low,
His praises there may grow.

Cho. Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,
My God and King.



Vers. The church with psalms must shout,
No doore can keep them out :
But above all, the heart
Must bear the longest part.

Cho. Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,
My God and King.



LOVE

I.

IMMORTAL LOVE, authour of this great frame,
Sprung from that beautie which can never fade ;
How hath man parcel'd out thy glorious name,
And thrown it on that dust which thou hast made,

While mortall love doth all the title gain !
Which siding with invention, they together
Bear all the sway, possessing heart and brain,
(Thy workmanship) and give thee share in neither.

Wit fancies beautie, beautie raiseth wit :
The world is theirs ; they two play out the game,
Thou standing by : and though thy glorious name
Wrought our deliverance from th' infernal pit,

Who sings thy praise ? onely a scarf or glove
Doth warm our hands, and make them write of love.

2.

IMMORTALL Heat, O let thy greater flame
 Attract the lesser to it : let those fires
 Which shall consume the world, first make it tame,
 And kindle in our hearts such true desires,

As may consume our lusts, and make thee way.
 Then shall our hearts pant thee ; then shall our brain
 All her invention on thine Altar lay,
 And there in hymnes send back thy fire again :

Our eies shall see thee, which before saw dust ;
 Dust blown by wit, till that they both were blinde :
 Thou shalt recover all thy goods in kinde,
 Who wert disseized by usurping lust :

All knees shall bow to thee ; all wits shall rise,
 And praise him who did make and mend our eies.

THE TEMPER.

HOW should I praise thee, Lord ! how should my rymes
 Gladly engrave thy love in steel,
 If what my soul doth feel sometimes,
 My soul might ever feel !

Although there were some fourtie heav'ns, or more,
 Sometimes I peere above them all ;
 Sometimes I hardly reach a score,
 Sometimes to hell I fall.

O rack me not to such a vast extent ;
 Those distances belong to thee :

The world's too little for thy tent,
A grave too big for me.

Wilt thou meet arms with man, that thou dost stretch
A crumme of dust from heav'n to hell?
Will great God measure with a wretch?
Shall he thy stature spell?

O let me, when thy roof my soul hath hid,
O let me roost and nestle there :
Then of a sinner thou art rid,
And I of hope and fear.

Yet take thy way ; for sure thy way is best :
Stretch or contract me thy poore debter :
This is but tuning of my breast,
To make the musick better.

Whether I flie with angels, fall with dust,
Thy hands made both, and I am there.
Thy power and love, my love and trust,
Make one place ev'ry where.



THE TEMPER.

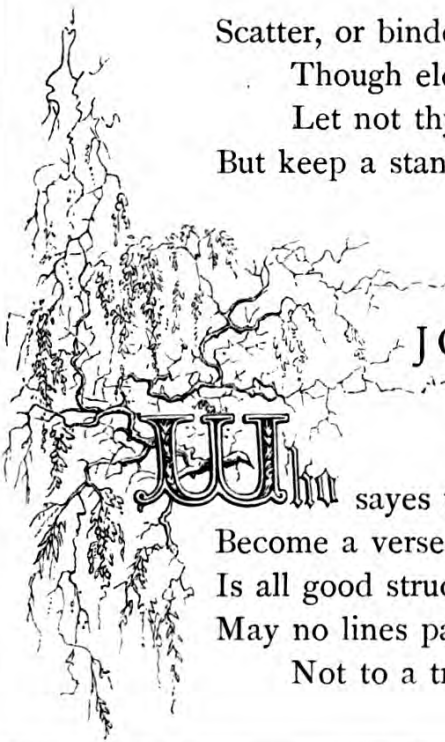
IT cannot be. Where is that mightie joy,
 Which just now took up all my heart?
 Lord! if thou must needs use thy dart,
 Save that, and me; or sin for both destroy.

The grosser world stands to thy word and art;
 But thy diviner world of grace
 Thou suddenly dost raise and raze,
 And ev'ry day a new Creatour art.

O fix thy chair of grace, that all my powers
 May also fix their reverence:
 For when thou dost depart from hence,
 They grow unruly, and sit in thy bowers.

Scatter, or binde them all to bend to thee:
 Though elements change, and heaven move;
 Let not thy higher Court remove,
 But keep a standing Majestie in me.

JORDAN.



W^ho says that fictions onely and false hair
 Become a verse? Is there in truth no beautie?
 Is all good structure in a winding stair?
 May no lines passe, except they do their dutie
 Not to a true, but painted chair?

Is it not verse, except enchanted groves
And sudden arbours shadow coarse-spunne lines?
Must purling streams refresh a lovers loves?
Must all be vail'd, while he that reades, divines,
Catching the sense at two removes?

Shepherds are honest people ; let them sing :
Riddle who list, for me, and pull for Prime :
I envie no mans nightingale or spring ;
Nor let them punish me with losse of ryme,
Who plainly say, *My God, My King.*



EMPLOYMENT.

BF, as a flowre doth spread and die,
Thou wouldst extend me to some good,
Before I were by frost's extremitie
Nipt in the bud ;

The sweetnesse and the praise were thine ;
But the extension and the room,
Which in thy garland I should fill, were mine
At thy great doom.

For as thou dost impart thy grace,
The greater shall our glorie be.
The measure of our joyes is in this place,
The stuffe with thee.

Let me not languish then, and spend
A life as barren to thy praise
As is the dust, to which that life doth tend,
But with delaies.



All things are busie ; only I
Neither bring hony with the bees,
Nor flowres to make that, nor the husbandrie
To water these.

I am no link of thy great chain,
But all my companie is a weed.
Lord, place me in thy consort ; give one strain
To my poore reed.

THE HOLY SCRIPTURES.

I.

OH Book ! infinite sweetnesse ! let my heart
Suck ev'ry letter, and a hony gain,
Precious for any grief in any part ;
To cleare the breast, to mollifie all pain.

Thou art all health, health thriving, till it make
A full eternitie : thou art a masse
Of strange delights, where we may wish and take.
Ladies, look here ; this is the thankfull glasse,

That mends the lookers eyes : this is the well
That washes what it shows. Who can endear
Thy praise too much ? thou art heaven's Lidger here,
Working against the states of death and hell.

Thou art joies handsell : heaven lies flat in thee,
Subject to ev'ry mounter's bended knee.

2.

OH that I knew how all thy lights combine,
And the configurations of their glorie !
Seeing not only how each verse doth shine,
But all the constellations of the storie.

This verse marks that, and both do make a motion
Unto a third, that ten leaves off doth lie :
Then as dispersed herbs do watch a potion,
These three make up some Christians destinie.

Such are thy secrets, which my life makes good,
And comments on thee : for in ev'ry thing
Thy words do finde me out, and parallels bring,
And in another make me understood.

Starres are poore books, and oftentimes do misse :
This book of starres lights to eternall blisse.

WHITSUNDAY.

LISTEN, sweet Dove, unto my song,
And spread thy golden wings in me ;
Hatching my tender heart so long,
Till it get wing, and flie away with thee.

Where is that fire which once descended
On thy Apostles ? thou didst then
Keep open house, richly attended,
Feasting all comers by twelve chosen men.

Such glorious gifts thou didst bestow,
That the earth did like a heaven appeare :
The starres were coming down to know
If they might mend their wages, and serve here.

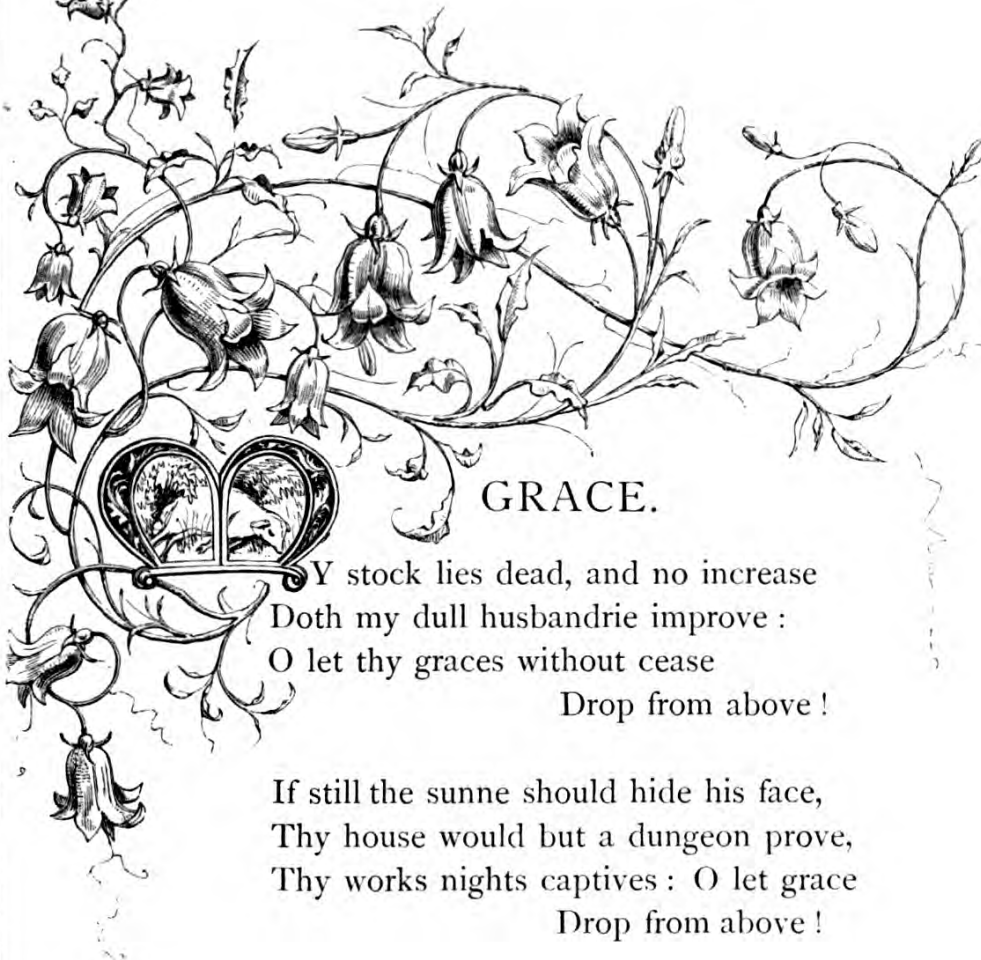
The Sunne, which once did shine alone,
Hung down his head, and wisht for night,
When he beheld twelve Sunnes for one
Going about the world, and giving light.

But since those pipes of gold, which brought
That cordiall water to our ground,

Were cut and martyr'd by the fault
Of those who did themselves through their side wound.

Thou shutt'st the doore, and keep'st within ;
Scarce a good joy creeps through the chink :
And if the braves of conqu'ring sinne
Did not excite thee, we should wholly sink.

Lord, though we change, thou art the same ;
The same sweet God of love and light :
Restore this day, for thy great name,
Unto his ancient and miraculous right.



GRACE.

Y stock lies dead, and no increase
Doth my dull husbandrie improve :
O let thy graces without cease
Drop from above !

If still the sunne should hide his face,
Thy house would but a dungeon prove,
Thy works nights captives : O let grace
Drop from above !

The dew doth ev'ry morning fall ;
And shall the dew outstrip thy dove ?
The dew, for which grasse cannot call,
Drop from above.

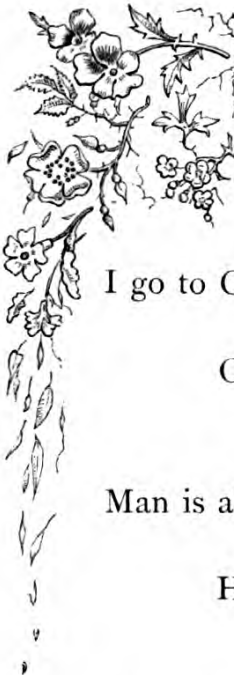


Death is still working like a mole,
And digs my grave at each remove :
Let grace work too, and on my soul
Drop from above.

Sinne is still hammering my heart
Unto a hardnesse, void of love :
Let suppling grace, to crosse his art,
Drop from above.

O come ! for thou dost know the way.
Or if to me thou wilt not move,
Remove me, where I need not say—
Drop from above.

PRAISE.

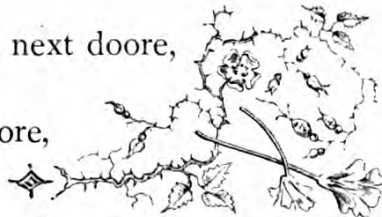


TO write a verse or two, is all the praise,
That I can raise :
Mend my estate in any wayes,
Thou shalt have more.

I go to Church ; help me to wings, and I
Will thither flie ;
Or, if I mount unto the skie,
I will do more.

Man is all weaknesse ; there is no such thing
As Prince or King :
His arm is short ; yet with a sling
He may do more.

A herb destill'd, and drunk, may dwell next doore,
On the same floore,
To a brave soul : Exalt the poore,
They can do more.



O raise me then ! poore bees, that work all day,
 Sting my delay,
 Who have a work, as well as they,
 And much, much more.

AFFLICTION.

KILL me not ev'ry day,
 Thou Lord of life ; since thy one death for me
 Is more than all my deaths can be,
 Though I in broken pay
 Die over each hour of Methusalems stay.

If all mens tears were let
 Into one common sewer, sea, and brine ;
 What were they all, compar'd to thine ?
 Wherein if they were set,
 They would discolour thy most bloody sweat.

Thou art my grief alone,
 Thou Lord conceal it not : and as thou art
 All my delight, so all my smart :
 Thy crosse took up in one,
 By way of imprest, all my future mone.

MATTENS.

I CANNOT ope mine eyes,
 But thou art ready there to catch
 My morning-soul and sacrifice :
 Then we must needs for that day make a match.

My God, what is a heart ?
Silver, or gold, or precious stone,
Or starre, or rainbow, or a part
Of all these things, or all of them in one ?

My God, what is a heart,
That thou shouldst it so eye, and woee,
Powing upon it all thy art,
As if that thou hadst nothing els to do ?

Indeed mans whole estate
Amounts (and richly) to serve thee :
He did not heav'n and earth create,
Yet studies them, not him by whom they be.

Teach me thy love to know ;
That this new light, which now I see,
May both the work and workman show :
Then by a sunne-beam I will climbe to thee.

SINNE.

O THAT I could a sinne once see !
We paint the devil foul, yet he
Hath some good in him, all agree.
Sinne is flat opposite to th' Almighty, seeing
It wants the good of *vertue*, and of *being*.

But God more care of us hath had,
If apparitions make us sad,
By sight of sinne we should grow mad.
Yet as in sleep we see foul death, and live ;
So devils are our sinnes in perspective.



EVEN-SONG.

BLEST be the God of love,
Who gave me eyes, and light, and power this day,
Both to be busie, and to play.
But much more blest be God above,

Who gave me sight alone,
Which to himself he did denie :
For when he sees my waies, I dy :
But I have got his sonne, and he hath none.

What have I brought thee home
For this thy love? have I discharg'd the debt,
Which this dayes favour did beget?
I ranne; but all I brought, was some.

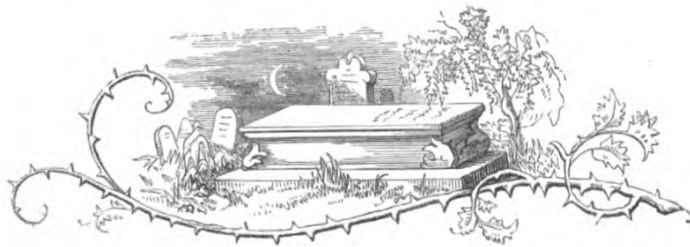
Thy diet, care, and cost
Do end in bubbles, balls of winde;
Of winde to thee whom I have crost,
But balls of wilde-fire to my troubled minde.

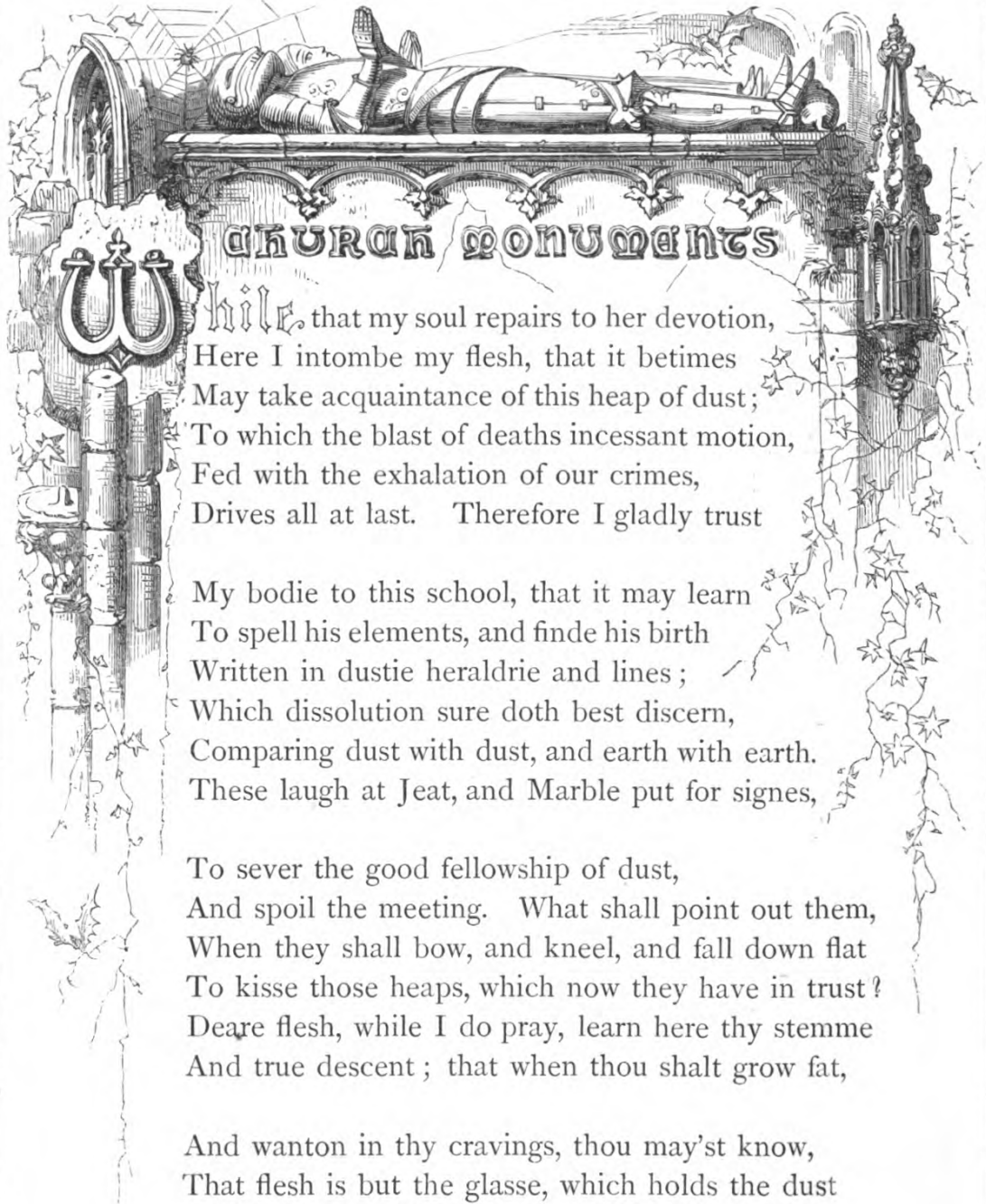
Yet still thou goest on,
And now with darknesse closest wearie eyes,
Saying to man, *It doth suffice:*
Henceforth repose; your work is done.

Thus in thy Ebony box
Thou dost inclose us, till the day
Put our amendment in our way,
And give new wheels to our disorder'd clocks.

I muse, which shows more love,
The day or night; that is the gale, this th' harbour;
That is the walk, and this the arbour;
Or that the garden, this the grove.

My God, thou art all love.
Not one poore minute 'scapes thy breast,
But brings a favour from above;
And in this love, more than in bed, I rest.





TOMBSTONES

While that my soul repairs to her devotion,
 Here I intombe my flesh, that it betimes
 May take acquaintance of this heap of dust;
 To which the blast of deaths incessant motion,
 Fed with the exhalation of our crimes,
 Drives all at last. Therefore I gladly trust

My bodie to this school, that it may learn
 To spell his elements, and finde his birth
 Written in dustie heraldrie and lines;
 Which dissolution sure doth best discern,
 Comparing dust with dust, and earth with earth.
 These laugh at Jeat, and Marble put for signes,

To sever the good fellowship of dust,
 And spoil the meeting. What shall point out them,
 When they shall bow, and kneel, and fall down flat
 To kisse those heaps, which now they have in trust?
 Deare flesh, while I do pray, learn here thy stemme
 And true descent; that when thou shalt grow fat,

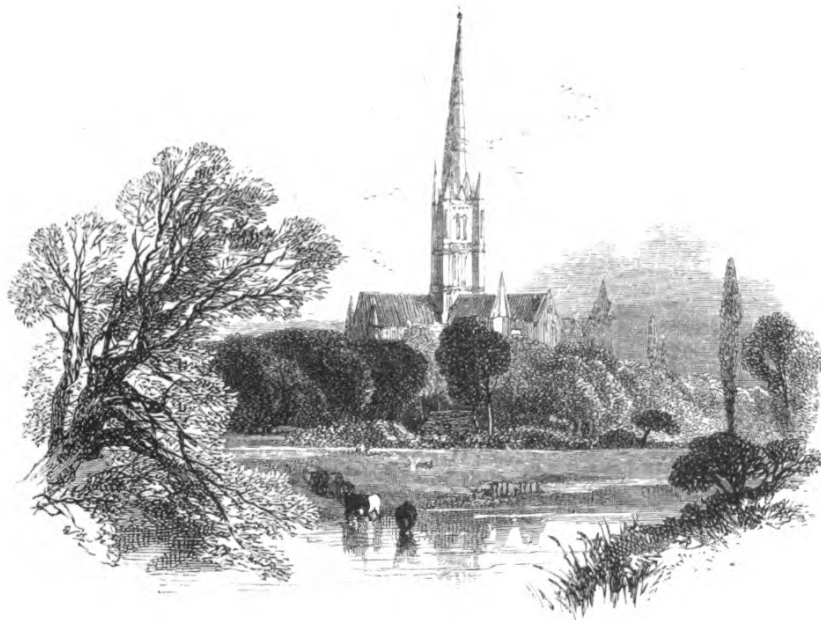
And wanton in thy cravings, thou may'st know,
 That flesh is but the glasse, which holds the dust
 That measures all our time; which also shall
 Be crumbled into dust. Mark here below,
 How tame these ashes are, how free from lust,
 That thou mayst fit thyself against thy fall.

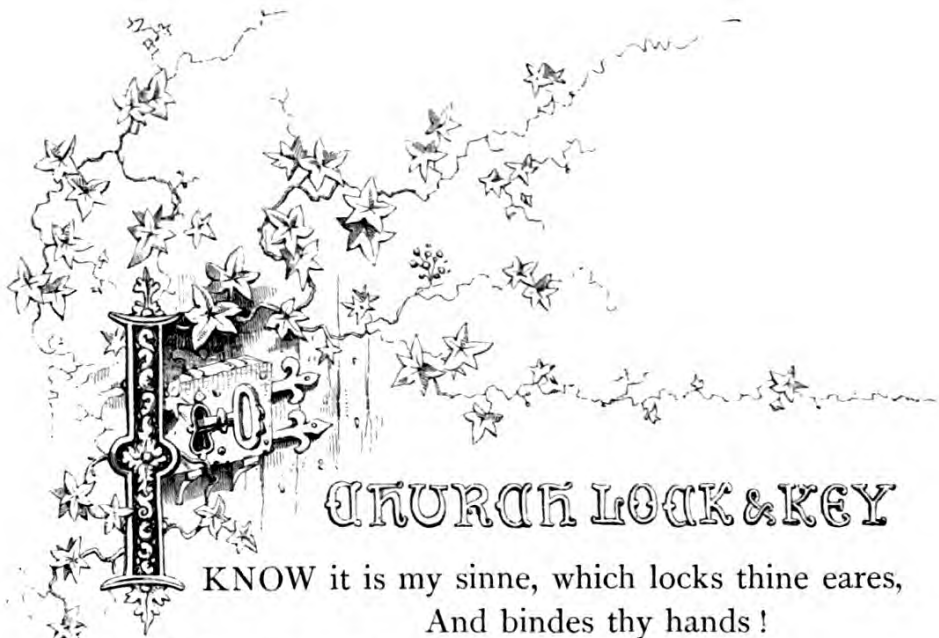
CHURCH-MUSICK.

SWEETEST of sweets, I thank you : when displeasure
Did through my bodie wound my minde,
You took me thence ; and in your house of pleasure
A daintie lodging me assign'd.

Now I in you without a bodie move,
Rising and falling with your wings :
We both together sweetly live and love,
Yet say sometimes, *God help poore Kings.*

Comfort, 'Ile die ; for if you poste from me,
Sure I shall do so, and much more :
But if I travell in your companie,
You know the way to heavens doore.





CHURCH LOCK & KEY

KNOW it is my sinne, which locks thine eares,
 And bindes thy hands !
 Out-crying my requests, drowning my tears ;
 Or else the chilnesse of my faint demands.

But as cold hands are angrie with the fire,
 And mend it still ;
 So I do lay the want of my desire,
 Not on my sinnes, or coldnesse, but thy will.

Yet heare, O God, onely for his blouds sake,
 Which pleads for me :
 For though sinnes plead too, yet like stones they make
 His blouds sweet current much more loud to be.

THE CHURCH FLOORE.

MARK you the floore ? that square and speckled stone,
 Which looks so firm and strong,
 Is *Patience* :

And th' other black and grave, wherewith each one
Is checker'd all along,

Humilitie :

The gentle rising, which on either hand
Leads to the Quire above,

Is Confidence :

But the sweet cement, which in one sure band
Ties the whole frame, is *Love*

And Charitie.

Hither sometimes Sinne steals, and stains
The marbles neat and curious veins :
But all is cleansed when the marble weeps.
Sometimes Death, puffing at the doore,
Blows all the dust about the floore :
But while he thinks to spoil the room, he sweeps.
Blest be the *Architect*, whose art
Could build so strong in a weak heart.

THE WINDOWS.

LORD, how can man preach thy eternall word ?
He is a brittle crazie glasse :
Yet in thy temple thou dost him afford
This glorious and transcendent place,
To be a window, through thy grace.

But when thou dost anneal in glasse thy storie,
Making thy life to shine within
The holy Preachers, then the light and glorie
More rev'rend grows, and more doth win ;
Which else shows watrish, bleak, and thin.





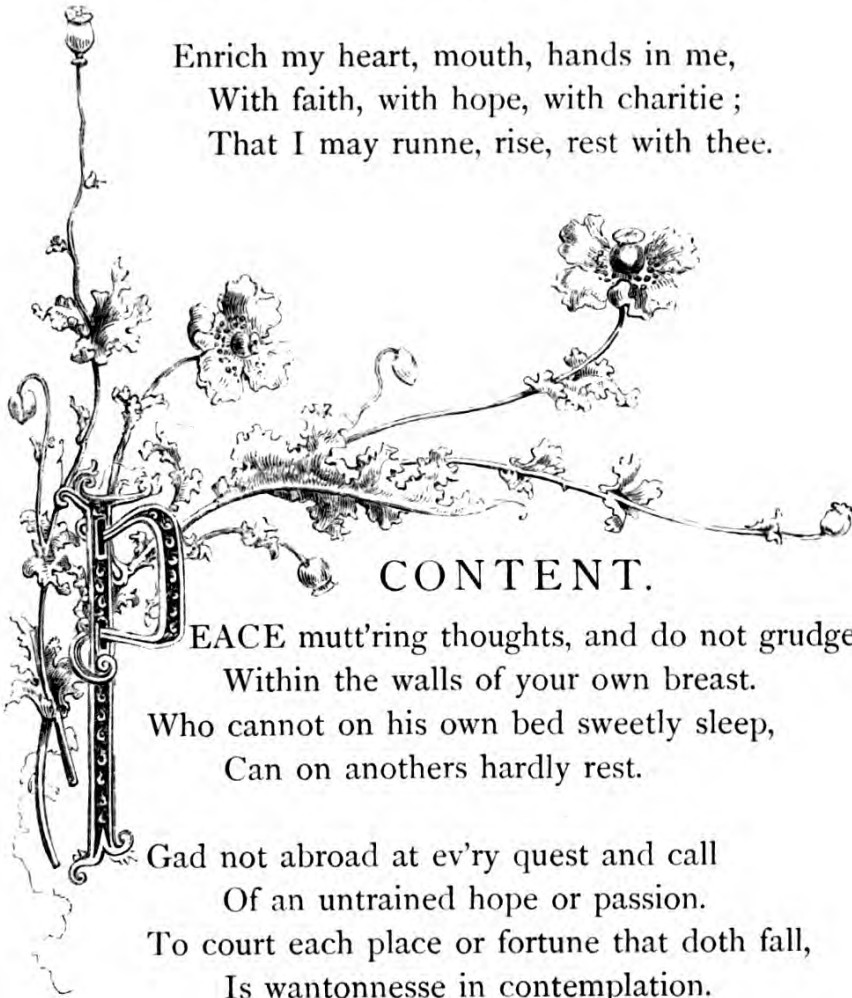
Doctrine and life, colours and light, in one
When they combine and mingle, bring
A strong regard and awe : but speech alone
Doth vanish like a flaring thing,
And in the eare, not conscience ring.

TRINITIE SUNDAY.

LORD, who hast form'd me out of mud,
And hast redeem'd me through thy bloud,
And sanctifi'd me to do good ;

Purge all my sinnes done heretofore ;
For I confesse my heavie score,
And I will strive to sinne no more.

Enrich my heart, mouth, hands in me,
With faith, with hope, with charitie ;
That I may runne, rise, rest with thee.



CONTENT.

PEACE mutt'ring thoughts, and do not grudge to keep
Within the walls of your own breast.
Who cannot on his own bed sweetly sleep,
Can on anothers hardly rest.

Gad not abroad at ev'ry quest and call
Of an untrained hope or passion.
To court each place or fortune that doth fall,
Is wantonnesse in contemplation.

Mark how the fire in flints doth quiet lie,
Content and warm t' it self alone :
But when it would appeare to others eye,
Without a knock it never shone.

Give me the pliant mind, whose gentle measure
Complies and suits with all estates ;
Which can let loose to a crown, and yet with pleasure
Take up within a cloisters gates.

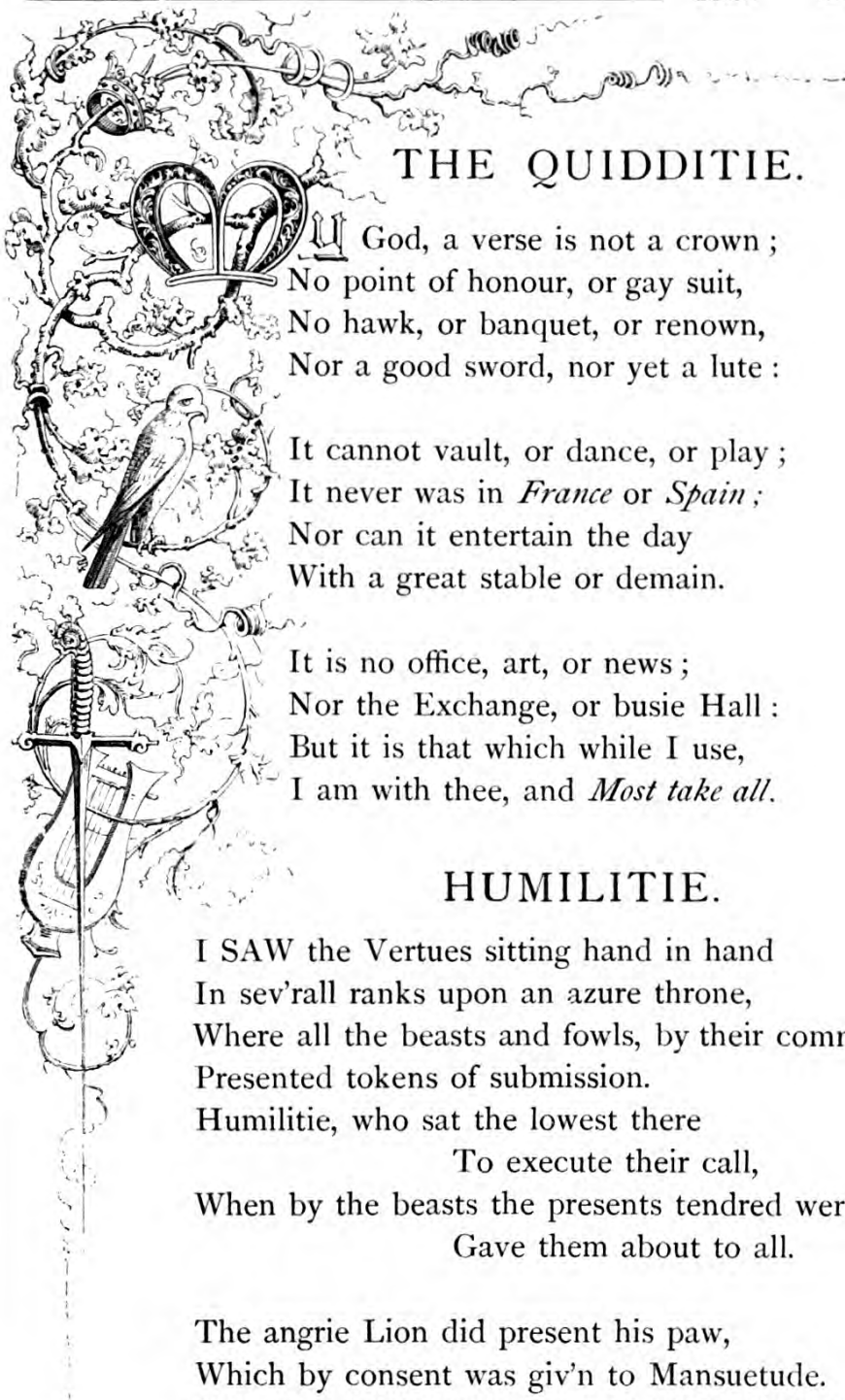
This soul doth span the world, and hang content
From either pole unto the centre :
Where in each room of the well-furnisht tent
He lies warm, and without adventure.

The brags of life are but a nine dayes wonder :
And after death the fumes that spring
From private bodies, make as big a thunder
As those which rise from a huge King.

Onely thy Chronicle is lost : and yet
Better by worms be all once spent,
Than to have hellish moths still gnaw and fret
Thy name in books, which may not rent.

When all thy deeds, whose brunt thou feel'st alone,
Are chaw'd by others pens and tongue,
And as their wit is, their digestion,
Thy nourisht fame is weak or strong.

Then cease discoursing soul, till thine own ground ;
Do not thyself or friends importune.
He that by seeking hath himself once found,
Hath ever found a happie fortune.



THE QUIDDITIE.

U God, a verse is not a crown ;
 No point of honour, or gay suit,
 No hawk, or banquet, or renown,
 Nor a good sword, nor yet a lute :

It cannot vault, or dance, or play ;
 It never was in *France* or *Spain* ;
 Nor can it entertain the day
 With a great stable or demain.

It is no office, art, or news ;
 Nor the Exchange, or busie Hall :
 But it is that which while I use,
 I am with thee, and *Most take all*.

HUMILITIE.

I SAW the Vertues sitting hand in hand
 In sev'rall ranks upon an azure throne,
 Where all the beasts and fowls, by their command,
 Presented tokens of submission.

Humilitie, who sat the lowest there
 To execute their call,
 When by the beasts the presents tendred were,
 Gave them about to all.

The angrie Lion did present his paw,
 Which by consent was giv'n to Mansuetude.
 The fearfull Hare her eares, which by their law
 Humilitie did reach to Fortitude.

The jealous Turkie brought his corall-chain,
 That went to Temperance.
 On Justice was bestow'd the Foxes brain,
 Kill'd in the way by chance.

At length the Crow, bringing the Peacocks plume,
 (For he would not) as they beheld the grace
 Of that brave gift, each one began to fume,
 And challenge it, as proper to his place,
 Till they fell out ; which when the beasts espied,
 They leapt upon the throne ;
 And if the Fox had liv'd to rule their side,
 They had depos'd each one.

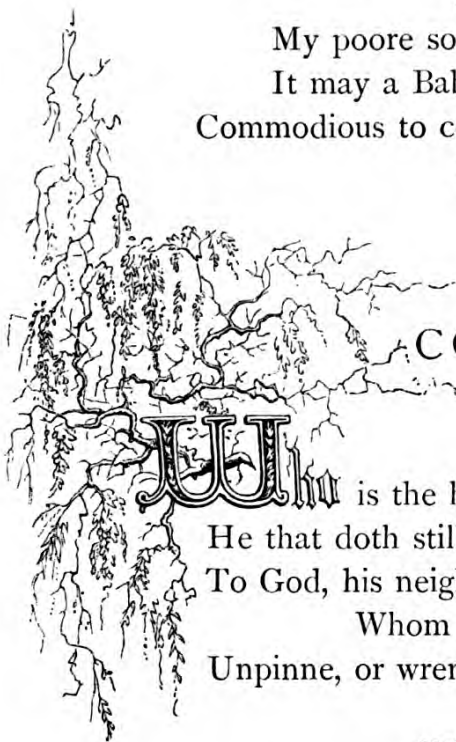
Humilitie, who held the plume, at this
 Did weep so fast, that the tears trickling down
 Spoil'd all the train : then saying, *Here it is*
For which ye wrangle, made them turn their frown
 Against the beasts : so joyntly bandying,
 They drive them soon away ;
 And then amerc'd them, double gifts to bring
 At the next Session-day.

FRAILTIE.

Word in my silence how do I despise
 What upon trust
 Is styled *honour, riches, or fair eyes ;*
 But is *fair dust !*
 I surname them *gilded clay,*
Deare earth, fine grasse or hay ;
 In all, I think my foot doth ever tread
 Upon their head.

But when I view abroad both Regiments,
The worlds, and thine ;
Thine clad with simplenesse, and sad events ;
The other fine,
Full of glorie and gay weeds,
Brave language, braver deeds :
That which was dust before, doth quickly rise,
And prick mine eyes.

O brook not this, lest if what even now
My foot did tread,
Affront those joyes, wherewith thou didst endow,
And long since wed
My poore soul, ev'n sick of love ;
It may a Bable prove,
Commodious to conquer heav'n and thee
Planted in me.



CONSTANCIE.

U is the honest man ?

He that doth still and strongly good pursue,
To God, his neighbour, and himself most true :
Whom neither force nor fawning can
Unpinne, or wrench from giving all their due.

Whose honestie is not
So loose or easie, that a ruffling winde
Can blow away, or glittering look it blinde :
Who rides his sure and even trot,
While the world now rides by, now lags behinde.

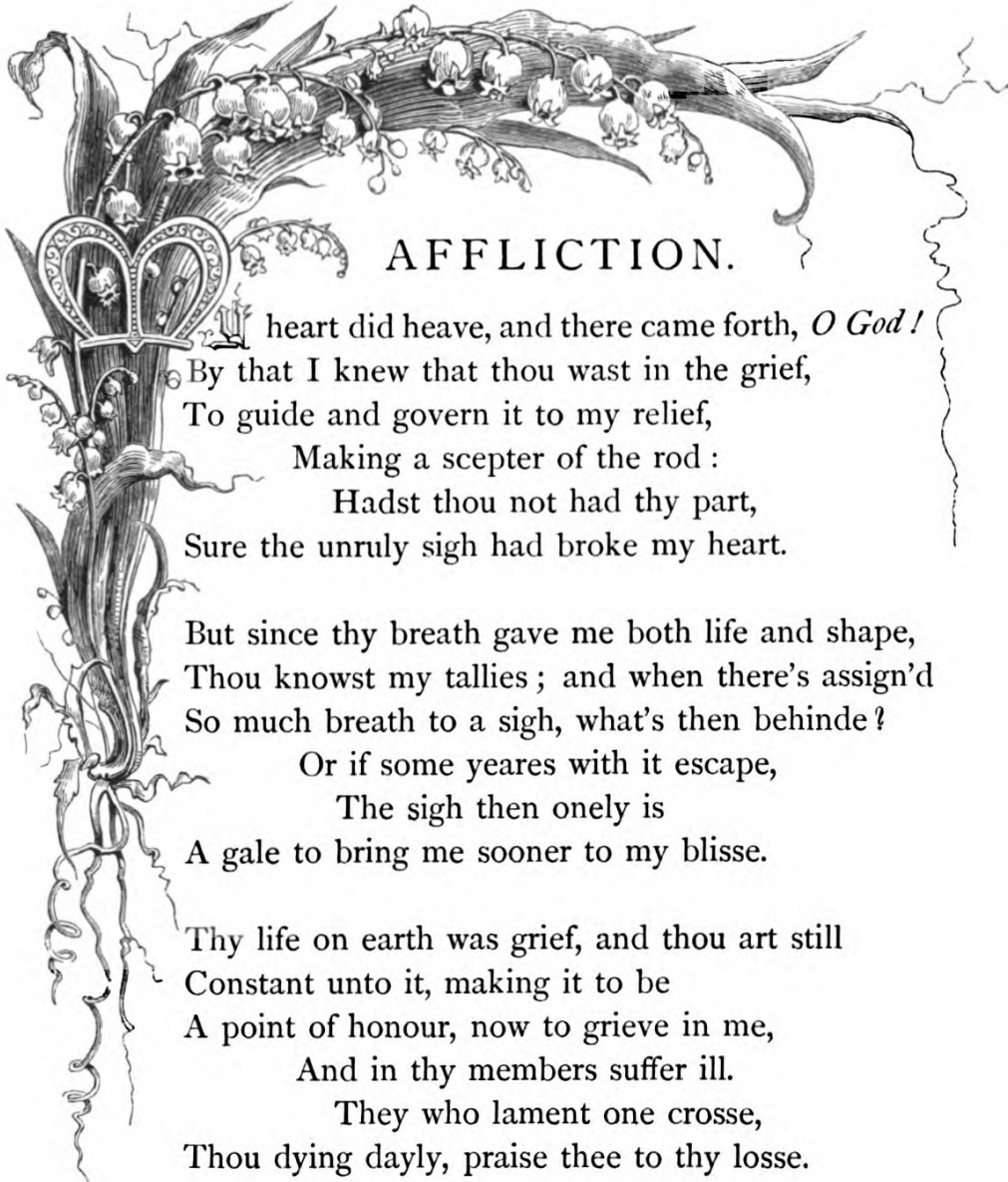
Who, when great trials come,
Nor seeks, nor shunnes them ; but doth calmly stay,
Till he the thing and the example weigh :
All being brought into a summe,
What place or person calls for, he doth pay.

Whom none can work or wooe,
To use in any thing a trick or sleight ;
For above all things he abhorres deceit :
His words and works and fashion too
All of a piece, and all are cleare and straight.

Who never melts or thaws
At close tentations : when the day is done,
His goodnesse sets not, but in dark can runne :
The sunne to others writeth laws,
And is their vertue ; Vertue is his Sunne.

Who, when he is to treat
With sick folks, women, those whom passions sway,
Allows for that, and keeps his constant way :
Whom others faults do not defeat ;
But though men fail him, yet his part doth play.

Whom nothing can procure,
When the wide world runnes bias, from his will
To writhe his limbes, and share, not mend the ill.
This is the Mark-man, safe and sure,
Who still is right, and prayes to be so still.



AFFLICTION.

My heart did heave, and there came forth, *O God!*
By that I knew that thou wast in the grief,
To guide and govern it to my relief,
Making a scepter of the rod :
Hadst thou not had thy part,
Sure the unruly sigh had broke my heart.

But since thy breath gave me both life and shape,
Thou knowst my tallies ; and when there's assign'd
So much breath to a sigh, what's then behinde ?
Or if some yeares with it escape,
The sigh then onely is
A gale to bring me sooner to my blisse.

Thy life on earth was grief, and thou art still
Constant unto it, making it to be
A point of honour, now to grieve in me,
And in thy members suffer ill.
They who lament one crosse,
Thou dying dayly, praise thee to thy losse.

THE STARRE.

BRIGHT spark, shot from a brighter place,
Where beams surround my Saviours face,
Canst thou be any where
So well as there ?

Yet, if thou wilt from thence depart,
Take a bad lodging in my heart ;
For thou canst make a debter,
And make it better.

First with thy fire-work burn to dust
Folly, and worse than folly, lust :
Then with thy light refine,
And make it shine.

So disengag'd from sinne and sicknesse,
Touch it with thy celestiaall quicknesse
That it may hang and move
After thy love.

Then with our trinitie of light,
Motion, and heat, let's take our flight
Unto the place where thou
Before didst bow.

Get me a standing there, and place
Among the beams, which crown the face
Of him, who dy'd to part
Sinne and my heart :

That so among the rest I may
Glitter, and curle, and winde as they :
That winding is their fashion
Of adoration.

Sure thou wilt joy, by gaining me
To flie home like a laden bee
Unto that hive of beams
And garland streams.



SUNDAY.

O DAY most calm, most bright,
The fruit of this, the next worlds bud,
Th' indorsement of supreme delight,
Writ by a friend, and with his bloud ;
The couch of time ; cares balm and bay ;
The week were dark, but for thy light :
Thy torch doth show the way.

The other dayes and thou
Make up one man ; whose face thou art,
Knocking at heaven with thy brow :
The worky-daies are the back-part ;
The burden of the week lies there,
Making the whole to stoup and bow,
Till thy release appeare.

Man had straight forward gone
To endlesse death ; but thou dost pull
And turn us round to look on one,
Whom, if we were not very dull,
We could not choose but look on still ;
Since there is no place so alone
The which he doth not fill.

Sundaies the pillars are,
On which heav'ns palace arched lies :
The other dayes fill up the spare
And hollow room with vanities.
They are the fruitful beds and borders
In Gods rich garden : that is bare
Which parts their ranks and orders.

The Sundaies of mans life,
Thredded together on times string,
Make bracelets to adorn the wife
Of the eternall glorious King.
On Sunday heavens gate stands ope ;
Blessings are plentifull and rife,
More plentifull than hope.

This day my Saviour rose,
And did inclose this light for his :
That, as each beast his manger knows,

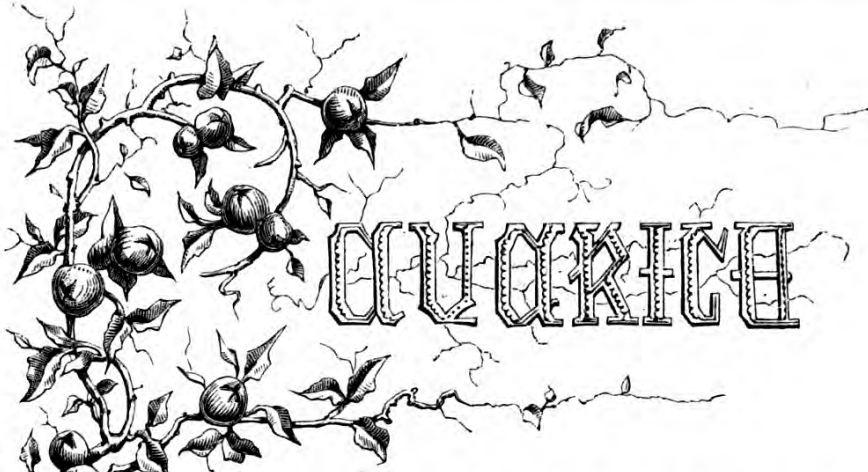
Man might not of his fodder misse.
Christ hath took in this piece of ground,
And made a garden there for those
Who want herbs for their wound.

The rest of our Creation
Our great Redeemer did remove
With the same shake, which at his passion
Did th' earth and all things with it move.
As Samson bore the doores away,
Christs hands, though nail'd, wrought our salvation,
And did unhinge that day.

The brightnesse of that day
We sullied by our foul offence :
Wherefore that robe we cast away,
Having a new at his expense,
Whose drops of bloud paid the full price,
That was requir'd to make us gay,
And fit for Paradise.

Thou art a day of mirth :
And where the week-dayes trail on ground,
Thy flight is higher, as thy birth :
O let me take thee at the bound,
Leaping with thee from sev'n to sev'n,
Till that we both, being toss'd from earth,
Flie hand in hand to heav'n !





MONEY, thou bane of blisse, and source of wo,
 Whence com'st thou, that thou art so fresh and fine?
 I know thy parentage is base and low:
 Man found thee poore and dirtie in a mine.

Surely thou didst so little contribute
 To this great kingdome, which thou now hast got,
 That he was fain, when thou wert destitute,
 To digge thee out of thy dark cave and grot.

Then forcing thee, by fire he made thee bright:
 Nay, thou hast got the face of man; for we
 Have with our stamp and seal transferr'd our right:
 Thou art the man, and man but drosse to thee.

Man calleth thee his wealth, who made thee rich;
 And while he digs out thee, falls in the ditch.

ANA { MARY } GRAM.
 { ARMY }

HOW well her name an *Army* doth present,
 In whom the *Lord of hosts* did pitch his tent!

TO ALL ANGELS AND SAINTS.

OH glorious spirits, who after all your bands
See the smooth face of God, without a frown,
Or strict commands ;
Where ev'ry one is king, and hath his crown,
If not upon his head, yet in his hands :

Not out of envie or maliciousnesse
Do I forbear to crave your speciall aid.
I would addresse
My vows to thee most gladly, blessed Maid,
And Mother of my God, in my distresse :

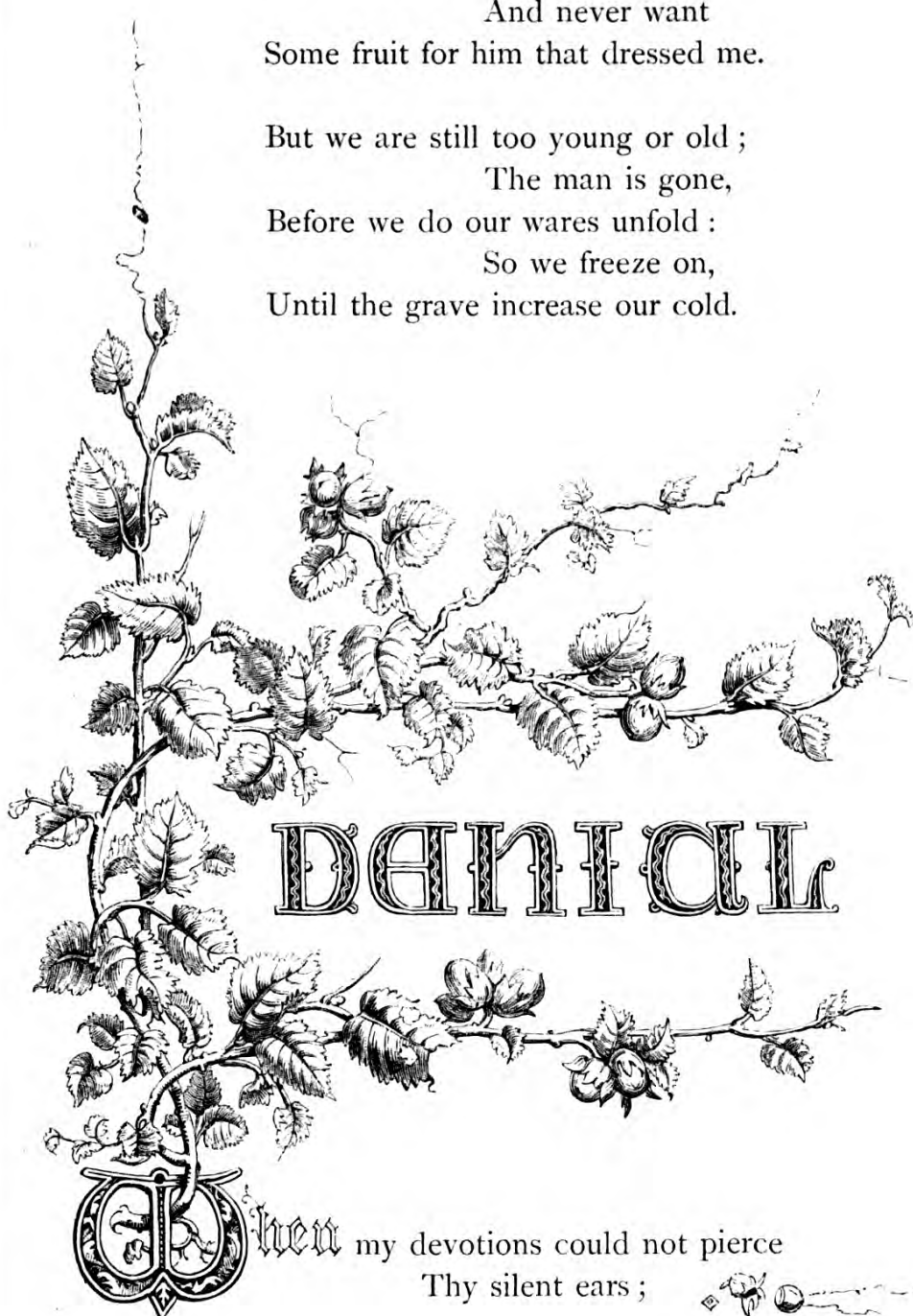
Thou art the holy mine, whence came the gold,
The great restorative for all decay
In young and old ;
Thou art the cabinet where the jewell lay :
Chiefly to thee would I my soul unfold.

But now, (alas !) I dare not ; for our King,
Whom we do all joyntly adore and praise,
Bids no such thing :
And where his pleasure no injunction lays,
('Tis your own case) ye never move a wing.

All worship is prerogative, and a flower
Of his rich crown, from whom lyes no appeal
At the last houre :
Therefore we dare not from his garland steal,
To make a posie for inferiour power.

O that I were an Orenge-tree,
That busie plant !
Then should I ever laden be,
And never want
Some fruit for him that dressed me.

But we are still too young or old ;
The man is gone,
Before we do our wares unfold :
So we freeze on,
Until the grave increase our cold.



DANIEL

When my devotions could not pierce
Thy silent ears ;



Then was my heart broken, as was my verse ;
My breast was full of fears
And disorder,

My bent thoughts, like a brittle bow,
Did flie asunder :
Each took his way ; some would to pleasures go,
Some to the warres and thunder
Of alarms.

As good go any where, they say,
As to benumme
Both knees and heart, in crying night and day,
Come, come, my God, O come,
But no hearing.

O, that thou shouldst give dust a tongue
To crie to thee,
And then not heare it crying ! all day long
My heart was in my knee,
But no hearing.

Therefore my soul lay out of sight,
Untun'd, unstrung :
My feeble spirit, unable to look right,
Like a nipt blossome, hung
Discontented.

O cheer and tune my heartlesse breast,
Defer no time ;
That so thy favours granting my request,
They and my minde may chime,
And mend my ryme.



CHRISTMAS.

ALL after pleasures as I rid one day,
My horse and I, both tir'd, bodie and minde,
With full cry of affections, quite astray ;
I took up in the next inne I could finde.

There when I came, whom found I but my deare,
My dearest Lord, expecting till the grief

Of pleasures brought me to him, readie there
To be all passengers most sweet relief?

O thou, whose glorious, yet contracted light,
Wrapt in nights mantle, stole into a manger ;
Since my dark soul and brutish is thy right,
To man of all beasts be not thou a stranger :

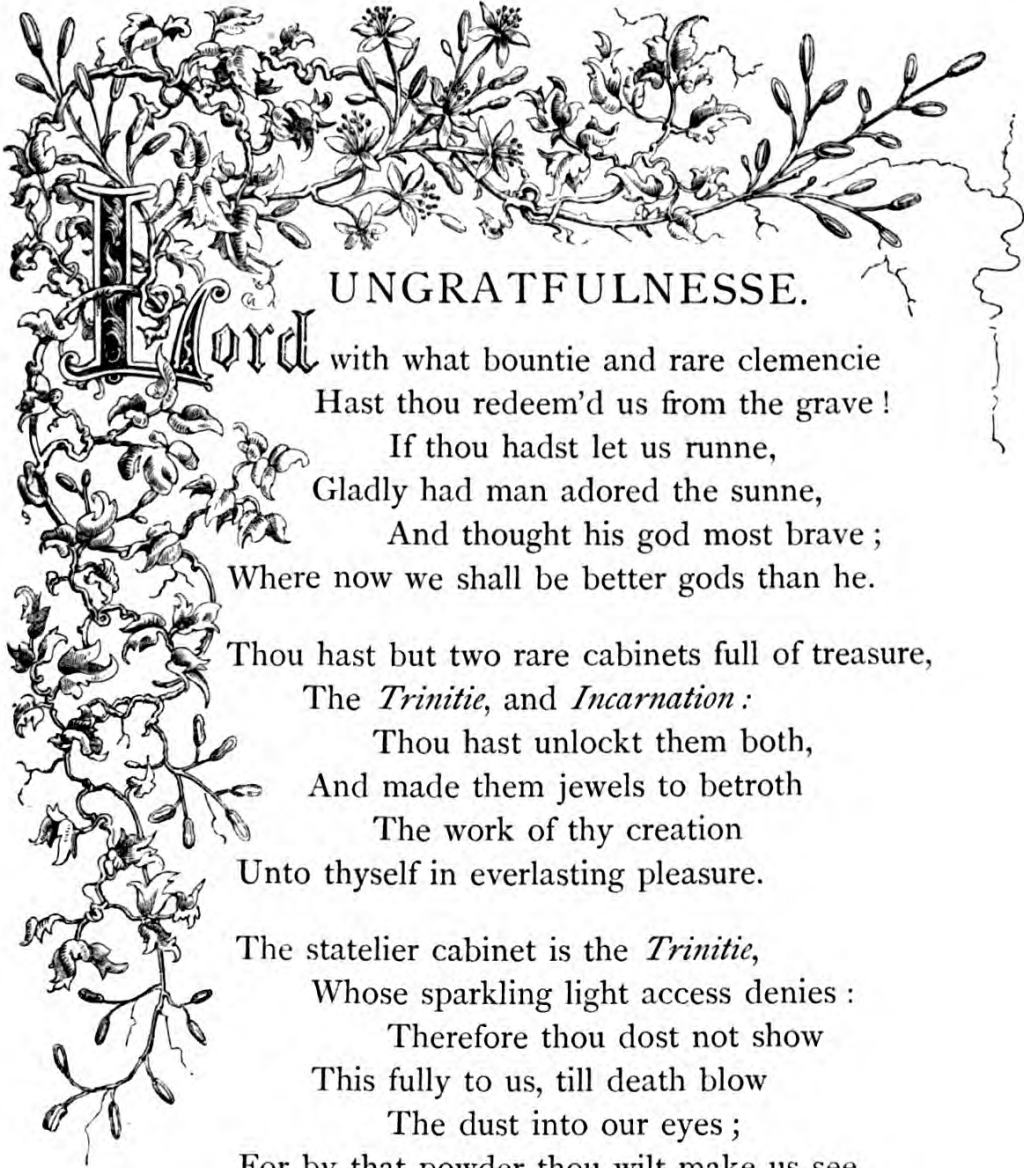
Furnish and deck my soul, that thou mayst have
A better lodging, than a rack, or grave.

THE shepherds sing ; and shall I silent be ?
My God, no hymne for thee ?
My soul's a shepherd too : a flock it feeds
Of thoughts, and words, and deeds.
The pasture is thy word ; the streams, thy grace
Enriching all the place.

Shepherd and flock shall sing, and all my powers
Out-sing the day-light houres.
Then we will chide the sunne for letting night
Take up his place and right :
We sing one common Lord ; wherefore he should
Himself the candle hold.

I will go searching, till I finde a sunne
Shall stay, till we have done ;
A willing shiner, that shall shine as gladly,
As frost-nipt sunnes look sadly.
Then we will sing, and shine all our own day,
And one another pay :

His beams shall cheer my breast, and both so twine,
Till ev'n his beams sing, and my musick shine.



UNGRATFULNESSE.

Lord with what bountie and rare clemencie
Hast thou redeem'd us from the grave !
If thou hadst let us runne,
Gladly had man adored the sunne,
And thought his god most brave ;
Where now we shall be better gods than he.

Thou hast but two rare cabinets full of treasure,
The *Trinitie*, and *Incarnation* :
Thou hast unlockt them both,
And made them jewels to betroth
The work of thy creation
Unto thyself in everlasting pleasure.

The statelier cabinet is the *Trinitie*,
Whose sparkling light access denies :
Therefore thou dost not show
This fully to us, till death blow
The dust into our eyes ;
For by that powder thou wilt make us see.

But all thy sweets are packt up in the other ;
Thy mercies thither flock and flow ;
That as the first affrights,
This may allure us with delights ;
Because this box we know ;
For we have all of us just such another.

But man is close, reserv'd, and dark to thee ;
 When thou demandest but a heart,
 He cavils instantly.
 In his poore cabinet of bone
 Sinnes have their box apart,
 Defrauding thee, who gavest two for one.

SIGHS AND GRONES.

O do not use me
 After my sinnes ! look not on my desert,
 But on thy glorie ! then thou wilt reform,
 And not refuse me : for thou onely art
 The mightie God, but I a silly worm :
 O do not bruise me !

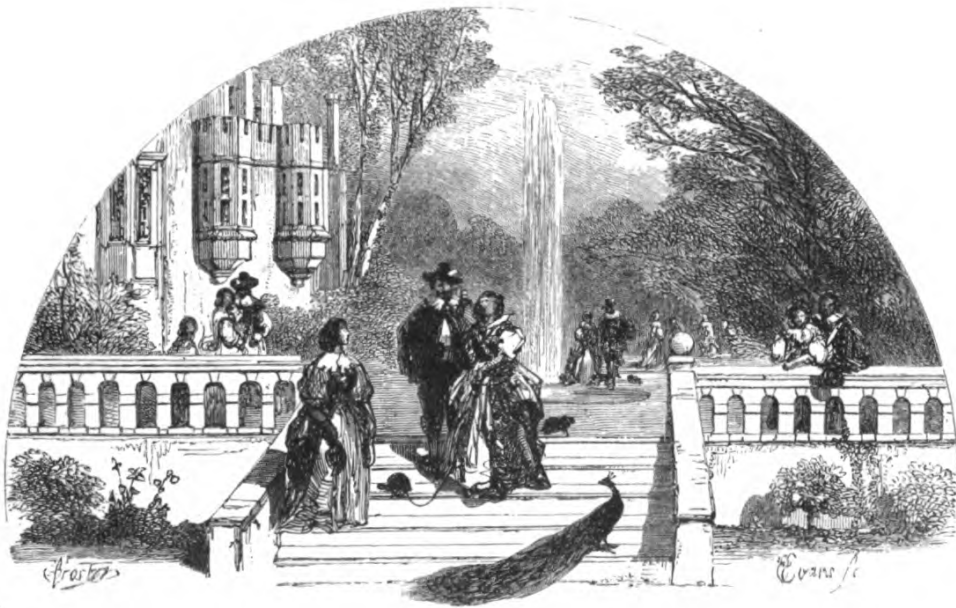
O do not urge me !
 For what account can thy ill steward make ?
 I have abus'd thy stock, destroy'd thy woods,
 Suckt all thy magazens : my head did ake,
 Till it found out how to consume thy goods :
 O do not scourge me !

O do not blind me !
 I have deserv'd that an Egyptian night
 Should thicken all my powers ; because my lust
 Hath still sow'd fig-leaves to exclude thy light :
 But I am frailtie, and already dust :
 O do not grinde me !

O do not fill me
 With the turn'd viall of thy bitter wrath !
 For thou hast other vessels full of bloud,

A part whereof my Saviour empti'd hath,
Ev'n unto death : since he di'd for my good,
O do not kill me !

But O reprieve me !
For thou hast *life* and *death* at thy command ;
Thou art both *Judge* and *Saviour*, *feast* and *rod*,
Cordiall and *Corrosive* : put not thy hand
Into the bitter box ; but O my God,
My God, relieve me !



THE WORLD.

LOVE built a stately house ; where *Fortune* came :
And spinning phansies, she was heard to say,
That her fine cobwebs did support the frame,
Whereas they were supported by the same :
But *Wisdom* quickly swept them all away.

Then *Pleasure* came, who liking not the fashion,
 Began to make *Balcones, Terraces,*
 Till she had weakned all by alteration :
 But rev'rend *laws,* and many a *proclamation*
 Reformed all at length with menaces.

Then entered *Sinne,* and with that Sycomore,
 Whose leaves first sheltred man from drought and dew,
 Working and winding slily evermore,
 The inward walls and Sommers cleft and tore :
 But *Grace* shor'd these, and cut that as it grew.

Then *Sinne* combined with *Death* in a firm band,
 To rase the building to the very floore :
 Which they effected, none could them withstand ;
 But *Love* and *Grace* took *Glorie* by the hand,
 And built a braver Palace then before.

COLOSS. iii. 3.

Our life is hid with Christ in God.

MY words and thoughts do both expresse this notion,
 That *Life* hath with the sun a double motion.
 The first *Is* straight, and our diurnall friend ;
 The other *Hid,* and doth obliquely bend.
 One life is wrapt *In* flesh, and tends to earth :
 The other winds toward *Him,* whose happie birth
 Taught me to live here so, *That* still one eye
 Should aim and shoot at that which *Is* on high ;
 Quitting with daily labour all *My* pleasure,
 To gain at harvest an eternall *Treasure.*



VANITIE.

THE fleet Astronomer can bore
And thred the spheres with his quick-piercing minde :
He views their stations, walks from doore to doore,
Surveys, as if he had design'd
To make a purchase there : he sees their dances,
And knoweth long before,
Both their full-ey'd aspects, and secret glances.

The nimble Diver with his side
 Cuts through the working waves, that he may fetch
 His dearly-earned pearl, which God did hide
 On purpose from the ventrous wretch ;
 That he might save his life, and also hers,
 Who with excessive pride
 Her own destruction and his danger wears.

The subtil Chymick can devest
 And strip the creature naked, till he finde
 The callow principles within their nest :
 There he imparts to them his minde,
 Admitted to their bed-chamber, before
 They appeare trim and drest
 To ordinarie suitors at the doore.


What hath not man sought out and found,
 But his deare God ? who yet his glorious law
 Embosomes in us, mellowing the ground
 With showres and frosts, with love and aw ;
 So that we need not say, Where's this command ?
 Poore man ! thou searchest round
 To finde out *death*, but missest *life* at hand.

LENT.

WELCOME, deare feast of Lent : who loves not thee,
 He loves not Temperance, or Authoritie,
 But is compos'd of passion.
 The Scriptures bid us *fast* ; the Church says, *now* :
 Give to thy Mother what thou wouldst allow
 To ev'ry Corporation.

The humble soul compos'd of love and fear,
Begins at home, and layes the burden there,
When doctrines disagree :
He sayes, in things which use hath justly got,
I am a scandall to the Church, and not
The Church is so to me.

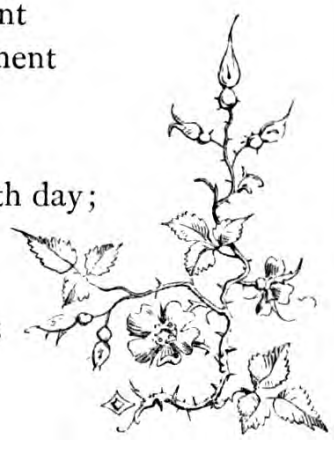
True Christians should be glad of an occasion
To use their temperance, seeking no evasion,
When good is seasonable ;
Unlesse Authoritie, which should increase
The obligation in us, make it lesse,
And Power it self disable.



Besides the cleannesse of sweet abstinence,
Quick thoughts and motions at a small expense,
A face not fearing light :
Whereas in fulnesse there are sluttish fumes,
Sowre exhalations, and dishonest rheumes,
Revenging the delight.

Then those same pendant profits, which the spring
And Easter intimate, enlarge the thing,
And goodnesse of the deed.
Neither ought other mens abuse of Lent
Spoil the good use ; lest by that argument
We forfeit all our Creed.

It's true, we cannot reach Christs forti'th day ;
Yet to go part of that religious way
Is better than to rest :
We cannot reach our Saviour's puritie ;
Yet are we bid, "*Be holy ev'n as he.*"
In both let's do our best.

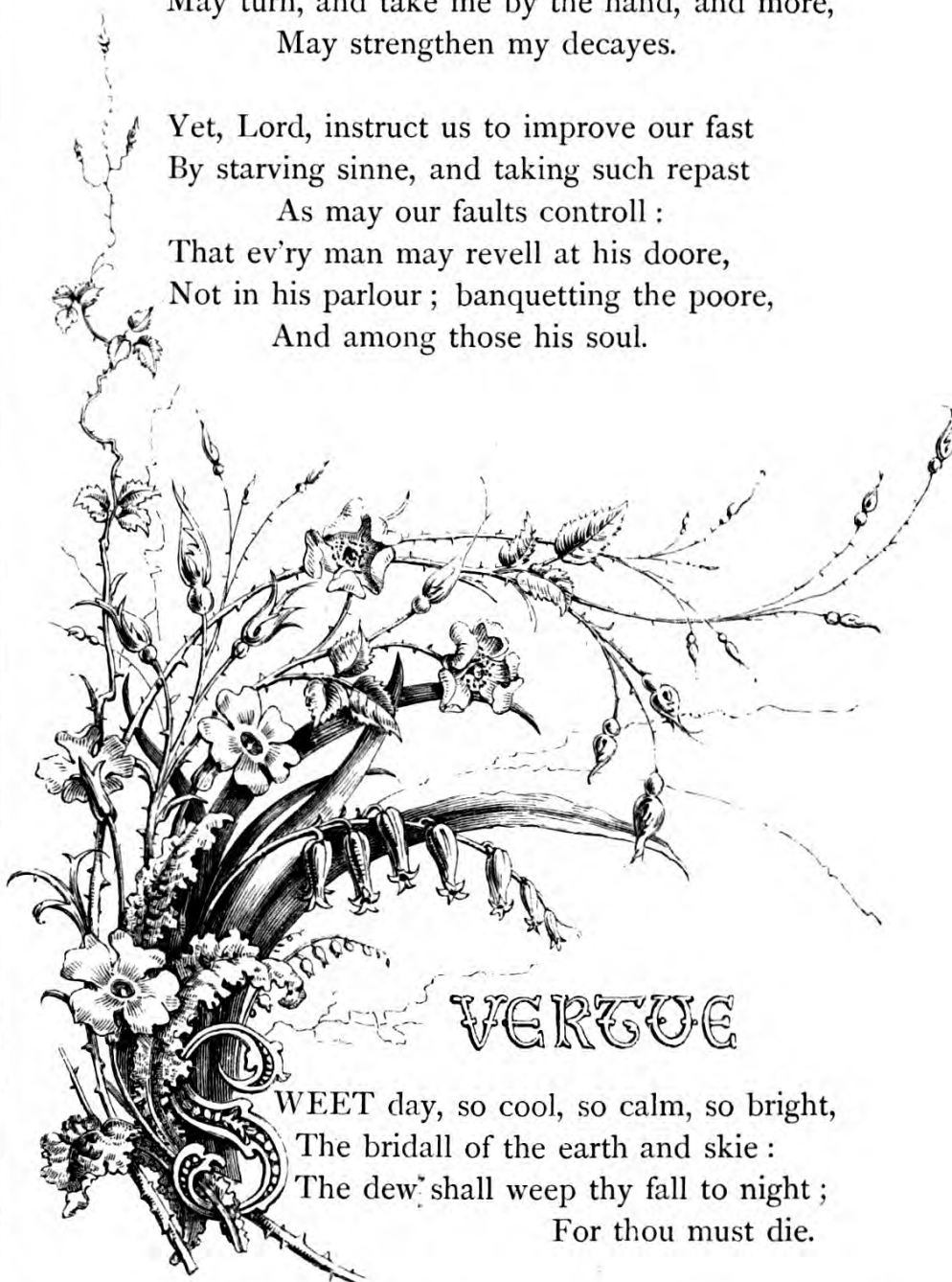


Who goeth in the way which Christ hath gone,
Is much more sure to meet with him, than one
That travelleth by-wayses.

Perhaps my God, though he be farre before,
May turn, and take me by the hand, and more,
May strengthen my decayes.

Yet, Lord, instruct us to improve our fast
By starving sinne, and taking such repast
As may our faults controll :

That ev'ry man may revell at his doore,
Not in his parlour ; banquetting the poore,
And among those his soul.



WEET day, so cool, so calm, so bright,
The bridall of the earth and skie :
The dew shall weep thy fall to night ;
For thou must die.

Sweet rose, whose hue angrie and brave
Bids the rash gazer wipe his eye,
Thy root is ever in its grave,
And thou must die.



Sweet Spring, full of sweet dayes and roses,
A box where sweets compacted lie,
My musick shows ye have your closes,
And all must die.

Onely a sweet and vertuous soul,
Like season'd timber, never gives ;
But though the whole world turn to coal,
Then chiefly lives.

THE PEARL.

Matt. XIII.

I KNOW the wayes of learning ; both the head
 And pipes that feed the presse, and make it runne ;
 What reason hath from nature borrowed,
 Or of itself, like a good huswife, spunne
 In laws and policie ; what the starres conspire,
 What willing nature speaks, what forc'd by fire ;
 Both th' old discoveries, and the new-found seas,
 The stock and surplus, cause and historie :
 All these stand open, or I have the keyes :
 Yet I love thee.

I know the wayes of honour, what maintains
 The quick returns of courtesie and wit :
 In vies of favours whether partie gains,
 When glorie swells the heart, and moldeth it
 To all expressions both of hand and eye,
 Which on the world a true love-knot may tie,
 And bear the bundle, wheresoe'er it goes :
 How many drammes of spirit there must be
 To sell my life unto my friends or foes :
 Yet I love thee.

I know the wayes of pleasure, the sweet strains,
 The lullings and the relishes of it ;
 The propositions of hot bloud and brains ;
 What mirth and musick mean ; what love and wit
 Have done these twentie hundred yeares, and more :
 I know the projects of unbridled store :
 My stufte is flesh, not brasse ; my senses live,
 And grumble oft, that they have more in me

Than he that curbs them, being but one to five :
Yet I love thee.

I know all these, and have them in my hand :
Therefore not sealed, but with open eyes
I flie to thee, and fully understand
Both the main sale, and the commodities ;
And at what rate and price I have thy love ;
With all the circumstances that may move :
Yet through the labyrinths, not my grovelling wit,
But thy silk twist let down from heav'n to me,
Did both conduct and teach me, how by it
To climb to thee.

AFFLICTION.



BROKEN in pieces all asunder,
Lord, hunt me not,
A thing forgot,
Once a poore creature, now a wonder,
A wonder tortur'd in the space
Betwixt this world and that of grace.

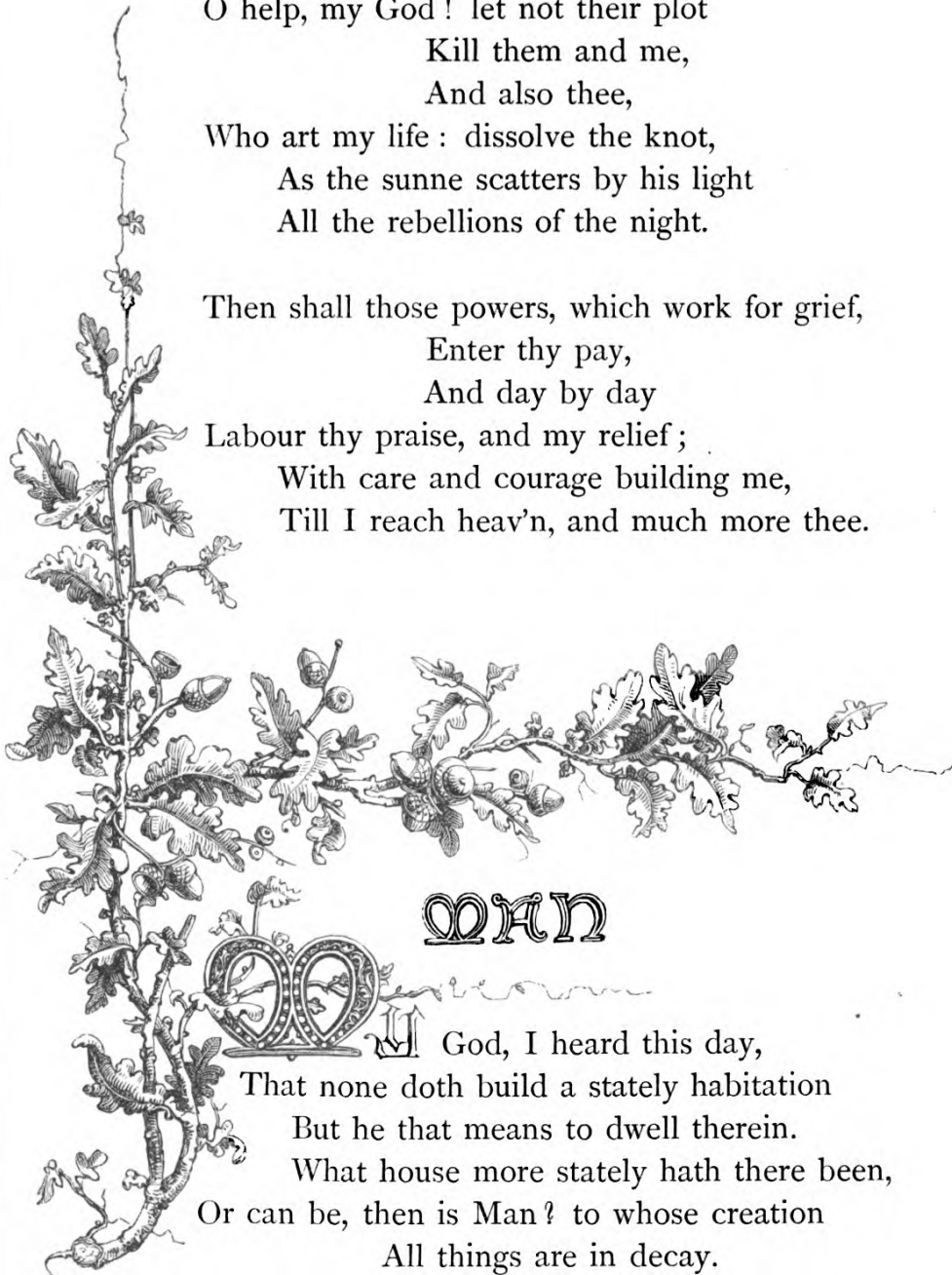
My thoughts are all a case of knives,
Wounding my heart
With scatter'd smart ;
As watring pots give flowers their lives.
Nothing their furie can controll,
While they do wound and prick my soul.

All my attendants are at strife,
Quitting their place
Unto my face :

Nothing performs the task of life :
 The elements are let loose to fight,
 And while I live, trie out their right.

O help, my God ! let not their plot
 Kill them and me,
 And also thee,
 Who art my life : dissolve the knot,
 As the sunne scatters by his light
 All the rebellions of the night.

Then shall those powers, which work for grief,
 Enter thy pay,
 And day by day
 Labour thy praise, and my relief ;
 With care and courage building me,
 Till I reach heav'n, and much more thee.



M God, I heard this day,
 That none doth build a stately habitation
 But he that means to dwell therein.
 What house more stately hath there been,
 Or can be, then is Man ? to whose creation
 All things are in decay.

For Man is ev'ry thing,
And more : He is a tree, yet bears no fruit ;
A beast, yet is, or should be more :
Reason and speech we onely bring.
Parrats may thank us, if they are not mute,
They go upon the score.

Man is all symmetrie,
Full of proportions, one limbe to another,
And all to all the world besides :
Each part may call the farthest, brother :
For head with foot hath private amitie,
And both with moons and tides.

Nothing hath got so farre,
But Man hath caught and kept it, as his prey.
His eyes dismount the highest starre :
He is in little all the sphere.
Herbs gladly cure our flesh, because that they
Finde their acquaintance there.

For as the windes do blow ;
The earth doth rest, heav'n move, and fountains flow.
Nothing we see, but means our good,
As our *delight*, or as our *treasure* :
The whole is, either our cupboard of *food*,
Or cabinet of *pleasure*.

The starres have us to bed ;
Night draws the curtain, which the sunne withdraws :
Musick and light attend our head.
All things unto our *flesh* are kinde
In their *descent* and *being* ; to our *minde*
In their *ascent* and *cause*.



Each thing is full of dutie :
 Waters united are our navigation ;
 Distinguished, our habitation ;
 Below, our drink ; above, our meat :
 Both are our cleanliness. Hath one such beautie ?
 Then how are all things neat !

More servants wait on Man,
 Then he'll take notice of : in ev'ry path
 He treads down that which doth befriend him,

When sicknesse makes him pale and wan.
Oh mightie love ! Man is one world, and hath
Another to attend him.

Since then, my God, thou hast
So brave a Palace built ; O dwell in it,
That it may dwell with thee at last !
Till then, afford us so much wit ;
That, as the world serves us, we may serve thee,
And both thy servants be.

ANTIPHON.

Chor. PRAISED be the God of love,

Men. Here below,

Angels. And here above :

Chor. Who hath dealt his mercies so,

Ang. To his friend,

Men. And to his foe ;

Chor. That both grace and glorie tend

Ang. Us of old,

Men. And us in th' end.

Chor. The great Shepherd of the fold

Ang. Us did make,

Men. For us was sold.

Chor. He our foes in pieces brake :

Ang. Him we touch ;

Men. And him we take.

Chor. Wherefore since that he is such,

Ang. We adore,

Men. And we do crouch.

Yet can a friend what thou hast done fulfill?
O write in brass, *My God upon a tree*
His blood did spill,
Onely to purchase my good-will:
Yet use I not my foes, as I use Thee.



LIFE.



MADE a posie, while the day ran by:
Here will I smell my remnant out, and tie
My life within this band.



But time did beckon to the flowers, and they
 By noon most cunningly did steal away,
 And wither'd in my hand.

My hand was next to them, and then my heart ;
 I took, without more thinking, in good part
 Times gentle admonition ;
 Who did so sweetly deaths sad taste convey,
 Making my minde to smell my fatall day,
 Yet surging the suspicion.

Farewell, dear flowers, sweetly your time ye spent,
 Fit, while ye liv'd, for smell or ornament,
 And after death for cures.
 I follow straight without complaints or grief,
 Since if my scent be good, I care not, if
 It be as short as yours.

SUBMISSION.

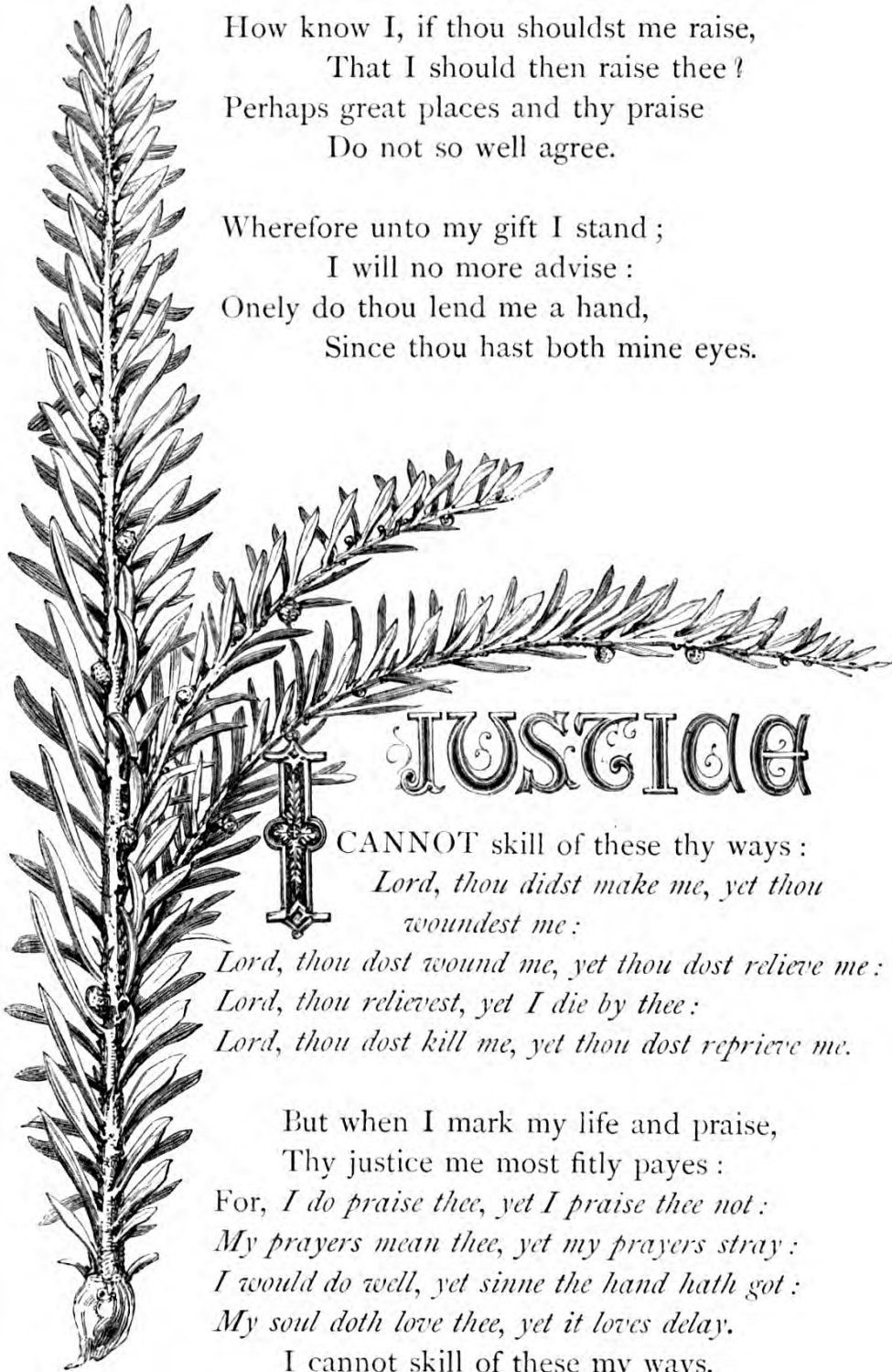
BUT that thou art my wisdome, Lord,
 And both mine eyes are thine,
 My minde would be extreemly stirr'd
 For missing my designe.

Were it not better to bestow
 Some place and power on me ?
 Then should thy praises with me grow,
 And share in my degree.

But when I thus dispute and grieve,
 I do resume my sight ;
 And pilfring what I once did give,
 Disseize thee of thy right.

How know I, if thou shouldst me raise,
That I should then raise thee ?
Perhaps great places and thy praise
Do not so well agree.

Wherefore unto my gift I stand ;
I will no more advise :
Onely do thou lend me a hand,
Since thou hast both mine eyes.



JUSTICE

I CANNOT skill of these thy ways :
*Lord, thou didst make me, yet thou
woundest me :*
Lord, thou dost wound me, yet thou dost relieve me :
Lord, thou relievest, yet I die by thee :
Lord, thou dost kill me, yet thou dost reprieve me.

But when I mark my life and praise,
Thy justice me most fitly payes :
For, *I do praise thee, yet I praise thee not :*
My prayers mean thee, yet my prayers stray :
I would do well, yet sinne the hand hath got :
My soul doth love thee, yet it loves delay.
I cannot skill of these my ways.



CHARMS AND KNOTS.

WHO reade a chapter when they rise,
Shall ne're be troubled with ill eyes.

A poore mans rod, when thou dost ride,
Is both a weapon and a guide.

Who shuts his hand, hath lost his gold :
Who opens it, hath it twice told.

Who goes to bed, and doth not pray,
Maketh two nights to ev'ry day.

Who by aspersions throw a stone
At th' head of others, hit their own.

Who looks on ground with humble eyes,
Findes himself there, and seeks to rise.

When th' hair is sweet through pride or lust,
The powder doth forget the dust.

Take one from ten, and what remains ?
Ten still, if sermons go for gains.

In shallow waters heav'n doth show :
But who drinks on, to hell may go.

AFFLICTION.

MY God, I read this day,
That planted Paradise was not so firm
As was and is thy floting Ark ; whose stay
And anchor thou art onely, to confirm
And strengthen it in ev'ry age,
When waves do rise, and tempests rage.

At first we liv'd in pleasure ;
Thine own delights thou didst to us impart :
When we grew wanton, thou didst use displeasure

To make us thine : yet that we might not part,
 As we at first did board with thee,
 Now thou wouldst taste our miserie.

There is but joy and grief ;
 If either will convert us, we are thine :
 Some Angels us'd the first ; if our relief
 Take up the second, then thy double line
 And sev'rall baits in either kinde
 Furnish thy table to thy minde.

Affliction then is ours ;
 We are the trees, whom shaking fastens more,
 While blustering windes destroy the wanton bowres,
 And ruffle all their curious knots and store.
 My God, so temper joy and wo,
 That thy bright beams may tame thy bow.

MORTIFICATION.

HOW soon doth man decay !
 When clothes are taken from a chest of sweets
 To swaddle infants, whose young breath
 Scarce knows the way ;
 Those clouts are little winding sheets,
 Which do consigne and send them unto death.

When boyes go first to bed,
 They step into their voluntarie graves ;
 Sleep bindes them fast ; onely their breath
 Makes them not dead.
 Successive nights, like rolling waves,
 Convey them quickly, who are bound for death.



When youth is frank and free,
And calls for musick, while his veins do swell,
All day exchanging mirth and breath
In companie ;
That musick summons to the knell,
Which shall befriend him at the house of death.

When man grows staid and wise,
Getting a house and home, where he may move
Within the circle of his breath,
Schooling his eyes ;

That dumbe inclosure maketh love
Unto the coffin, that attends his death.

When age grows low and weak,
Marking his grave, and thawing ev'ry yeare,
Till all do melt, and drown his breath
When he would speak ;
A chair or litter shows the biere,
Which shall convey him to the house of death.

Man, ere he is aware,
Hath put together a solemnitie,
And drest his herse, while he has breath
As yet to spare.
Yet, Lord, instruct us so to die
That all these dyings may be life in death.

DECAY.

SWEET were the dayes, when thou didst lodge with Lot,
Struggle with Jacob, sit with Gideon,
Advise with Abraham, when thy power could not
Encounter Moses strong complaints and moan :
Thy words were then, *Let me alone.*

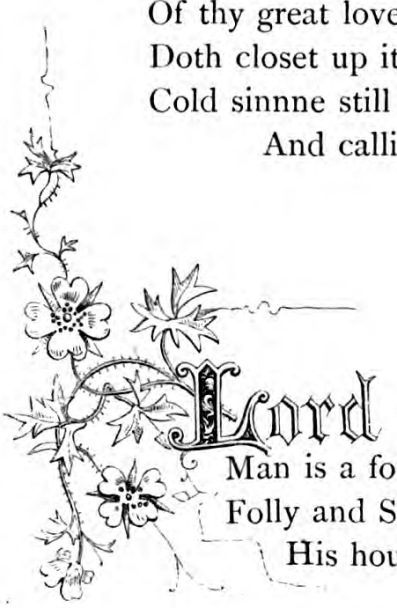
One might have sought and found thee presently
At some fair oak, or bush, or cave, or well :
Is my God this way ? No, they would reply ;
He is to Sinai gone, as we heard tell :
List, ye may heare great Aarons bell.

But now thou dost thyself immure and close
In some one corner of a feeble heart :

Where yet both Sinne and Satan, thy old foes,
Do pinch and straiten thee, and use much art
To gain thy thirds and little part.

I see the world grows old, when as the heat
Of thy great love once spread, as in an urn
Doth closet up itself, and still retreat,
Cold sinnne still forcing it, till it return
And calling Justice, all things burn.

MISERIE.



Lord let the Angels praise thy name.
Man is a foolish thing, a foolish thing,
Folly and Sinne play all his game.
His house still burns ; and yet he still doth sing,
Man is but grasse,
He knows it, fill the glasse.

How canst thou brook his foolishnesse ?
Why, he'l not lose a cup of drink for thee :
Bid him but temper his excesse ;
Not he : he knows, where he can better be,
As he will swear,
Then to serve thee in fear.

What strange pollutions doth he wed,
And make his own ? as if none knew, but he.
No man shall beat into his head
That thou within his curtains drawn canst see :
They are of cloth,
Where never yet came moth.



The best of men, turn but thy hand
 For one poore minute, stumble at a pinne :
 They would not have their actions scann'd,
 Nor any sorrow tell them that they sinne,
 Though it be small,
 And measure not their fall.

They quarrell thee, and would give over
 The bargain made to serve thee : but thy love
 Holds them unto it, and doth cover
 Their follies with the wing of thy milde Dove,
 Not suff'ring those
 Who would, to be thy foes.

My God, Man cannot praise thy name :
 Thou art all brightnesse, perfect puritie :
 The sunne holds down his head for shame,
 Dead with eclipses, when we speak of thee.
 How shall infection
 Presume on thy perfection ?

As dirtie hands foul all they touch,
 And those things most, which are most pure and fine :
 So our clay hearts, ev'n when we crouch
 To sing thy praises, make them lesse divine.
 Yet either this,
 Or none thy portion is.

Man cannot serve thee ; let him go
 And serve the swine : there, there is his delight :
 He doth not like this vertue, no ;
 Give him his dirt to wallow in all night ;
 These Preachers make
 His head to shoot and ake.

O foolish man ! where are thine eyes ?
How hast thou lost them in a crowd of cares ?
Thou pull'st the rug, and wilt not rise,
No not to purchase the whole pack of starres :
There let them shine,
Thou must go sleep, or dine.



The bird that sees a daintie bowre
Made in the tree, where she was wont to sit,
Wonders and sings, but not his power
Who made the arbour : this exceeds her wit.
But Man doth know
The spring, whence all things flow :

And yet as though he knew it not,
His knowledge winks, and lets his humours reigne :
They make his life a constant blot,

And all the bloud of God to run in vain.

Ah, wretch ! what verse
Can thy strange wayes rehearse ?

Indeed at first Man was a treasure,
A box of jewels, shop of rarities,
A ring, whose posie was, *My pleasure* :
He was a garden in a Paradise :
Glorie and grace
Did crown his heart and face.

But sinne hath fool'd him. Now he is
A lump of flesh, without a foot or wing
To raise him to the glimpse of blisse :
A sick toss'd vessel, dashing on each thing ;
Nay, his own shelf :
My God, I mean myself.

JORDAN.

WHEN first my lines of heav'nly joyes made mention,
Such was their lustre, they did so excell,
That I sought out quaint words, and trim invention ;
My thoughts began to burnish, sprout, and swell,
Curling with metaphors a plain intention,
Decking the sense, as if it were to sell.

Thousands of notions in my brain did runne,
Off'ring their service, if I were not sped :
I often blotted what I had begunne ;
This was not quick enough, and that was dead.
Nothing could seem too rich to clothe the sunne,
Much lesse those joyes which trample on his head.

As flames do work and winde, when they ascend ;
 So did I weave myself into the sense.
 But while I bustled, I might hear a friend
 Whisper, *How wide is all this long pretence !*
There is in love a sweetnesse ready penn'd :
Copie out onely that, and save expense.



PRAYER.

what an easie quick accesse,
 My blessed Lord, art thou ! how suddenly
 May our requests thine eare invade !
 To show that state dislikes not easinesse,
 If I but lift mine eyes, my suit is made :
 Thou canst no more not heare, than thou canst die.

Of what supreme almightie power
 Is thy great arm which spans the east and west,
 And tacks the centre to the sphere !
 By it do all things live their measur'd houre :
 We cannot ask the thing, which is not there,
 Blaming the shallownesse of our request.

Of what unmeasurable love
 Art thou possest, who, when thou couldst not die,
 Wert fain to take our flesh and curse,
 And for our sakes in person sinne reprove ;
 That by destroying that which ty'd thy purse,
 Thou mightst make way for liberalitie !

Since then these three wait on thy throne,
Ease, Power, and Love ; I value prayer so,

That were I to leave all but one,
Wealth, fame, endowments, vertues, all should go ;
I and deare prayer would together dwell,
And quickly gain, for each inch lost, an ell.

OBEDIENCE.

MY God, if writings may
Convey a Lordship any way
Whither the buyer and the seller please ;
Let it not thee displease,
If this poore paper do as much as they.

On it my heart doth bleed
As many lines, as there doth need
To passe itself and all it hath to thee.
To which I do agree,
And here present it as my speciall deed.

If that hereafter Pleasure
Cavill, and claim her part and measure,
As if this passed with a reservation,
Or some such words in fashion ;
I here exclude the wrangler from thy treasure.

O let thy sacred will
All thy delight in me fulfill !
Let me not think an action mine own way,
But as thy love shall sway,
Resigning up the rudder to thy skill.

Lord, what is man to thee,
That thou shouldst minde a rotten tree ?

Yet since thou canst not choose but see my actions ;
So great are thy perfections,
Thou mayst as well my actions guide, as see.

Besides, thy death and bloud
Show'd a strange love to all our good :
Thy sorrows were in earnest ; no faint proffer,
Or superficial offer
Of what we might not take, or be withstood.

Wherefore I all forego :
To one word onely I say, No :
Where in the deed there was an intimation
Of a *gift* or *donation*,
Lord, let it now by way of *purchase* go .

He that will passe his land,
As I have mine, may set his hand
And heart unto this deed, when he hath read ;
And make the purchase spread
To both our goods, if he to it will stand.

How happie were my part,
If some kinde man would thrust his heart
Into these lines ; till in heav'ns court of rolls
They were by winged souls
Entred for both, farre above their desert !

CONSCIENCE.

PEACE pratler, do not lowre :
Not a fair look, but thou dost call it foul :
Not a sweet dish, but thou dost call it sowre :



Musick to thee doth howl.
 By listning to thy chatting fears
 I have both lost mine eyes and eares.

Pratler, no more, I say :
 My thoughts must work, but like a noiselesse sphere.
 Harmonious peace must rock them all the day :
 No room for pratlers there.
 If thou persistest, I will tell thee,
 That I have physick to expell thee.

And the receipt shall be
 My Saviours bloud : whenever at his board
 I do but taste it, straight it cleanseth me,
 And leaves thee not a word ;
 No, not a tooth or nail to scratch,
 And at my actions carp, or catch.

Yet if thou talkest still,
 Besides my physick, know there's some for thee :
 Some wood and nails to make a staffe or bill
 For those that trouble me :
 The bloudie crosse of my deare Lord
 Is both my physick and my sword.

SION.

LORD, with what glorie wast thou serv'd of old,
 When Solomons temple stood and flourished !
 Where most things were of purest gold ;
 The wood was all embellished
 With flowers and carvings, mysticall and rare :
 All show'd the builders, crav'd the seers care.

Yet all this glorie, all this pomp and state,
Did not affect thee much, was not thy aim.

Something there was that sow'd debate :

Wherefore thou quitt'st thy ancient claim :
And now thy Architecture meets with sinne ;
For all thy frame and fabrick is within.

There thou art struggling with a peevisch heart,
Which sometimes crosseth thee, thou sometimes it :

The fight is hard on either part.

Great God doth fight, he doth submit.

All Solomons sea of brasse and world of stone
Is not so deare to thee as one good grone.

And truly brasse and stones are heavie things,
Tombes for the dead, not temples fit for thee :

But grones are quick, and full of wings,

And all their motions upward be ;

And ever as they mount, like larks they sing :
The note is sad, yet musick for a king.



HOME.

COME, Lord, my head doth burn, my heart is sick,
 While thou dost ever, ever stay :
 Thy long deferrings wound me to the quick,
 My spirit gaspeth night and day.
 O show thy self to me,
 Or take me up to thee !

How canst thou stay, considering the pace
 The blood did make, which thou didst waste ?
 When I behold it trickling down thy face,
 I never saw thing make such haste.
 O show thy self, &c.

When man was lost, thy pitie lookt about,
 To see what help in th' earth or skie :
 But there was none ; at least no help without :
 The help did in thy bosome lie.
 O show thy self, &c.

There lay thy sonne : and must he leave that nest,
 That hive of sweetnesse, to remove
 Thraldome from those, who would not at a feast
 Leave one poore apple for thy love ?
 O show thy self, &c.

He did, he came : O my Redeemer deare,
 After all this canst thou be strange ?
 So many yeares baptiz'd, and not appeare ;
 As if thy love could fail or change ?
 O show thy self, &c.




Yet if thou stayest still, why must I stay?
My God, what is this world to me?
This world of wo? hence, all ye clouds, away,
Away; I must get up and see.

O show thy self to me,
Or take me up to thee!

What is this weary world; this meat and drink,
That chains us by the teeth so fast?
What is this woman-kinde, which I can wink
Into a blacknesse and distaste?

O show thy self, &c.



With one small sigh thou gav'st me th' other day
I blasted all the joyes about me:
And scouling on them as they pin'd away,
Now come again, said I, and flout me.

O show thy self, &c.

Nothing but drought and dearth, but bush and brake,
Which way so-e're I look, I see.
Some may dream merrily, but when they wake,
They dresse themselves and come to thee.

O show thy self, &c.

We talk of harvests; there are no such things,
But when we leave our corn and hay:
There is no fruitfull yeare, but that which brings
The last and lov'd, though dreadfull day.

O show thy self, &c.

Oh loose this frame, this knot of man untie!
That my free soul may use her wing,
Which now is pinion'd with mortalitie,

As an intangled, hamper'd thing.
 O shew thy self to me,
 Or take me up to thee !

What have I left, that I should stay and grone ?
 The most of me to heav'n is fled :
 My thoughts and joyes are all packt up and gone,
 And for their old acquaintance plead.
 O shew thy self, &c.

Come, dearest Lord, passe not this holy season,
 My flesh and bones and joynts do pray :
 And ev'n my verse, when by the ryme and reason
 The word is, *Stay*, says ever, *Come*.
 O shew thy self, &c.

THE BRITISH CHURCH.

I JOY, deare Mother, when I view
 Thy perfect lineaments, and hue
 Both sweet and bright :

Beautie in thee takes up her place,
 And dates her letters from thy face,
 When she doth write.

A fine aspect in fit aray,
 Neither too mean, nor yet too gay,
 Shows who is best :

Outlandish looks may not compare ;
 For all they either painted are,
 Or else undrest.

She on the hills, which wantonly
Allureth all in hope to be
By her preferr'd,

Hath kiss'd so long her painted shrines,
That ev'n her face by kissing shines,
For her reward.

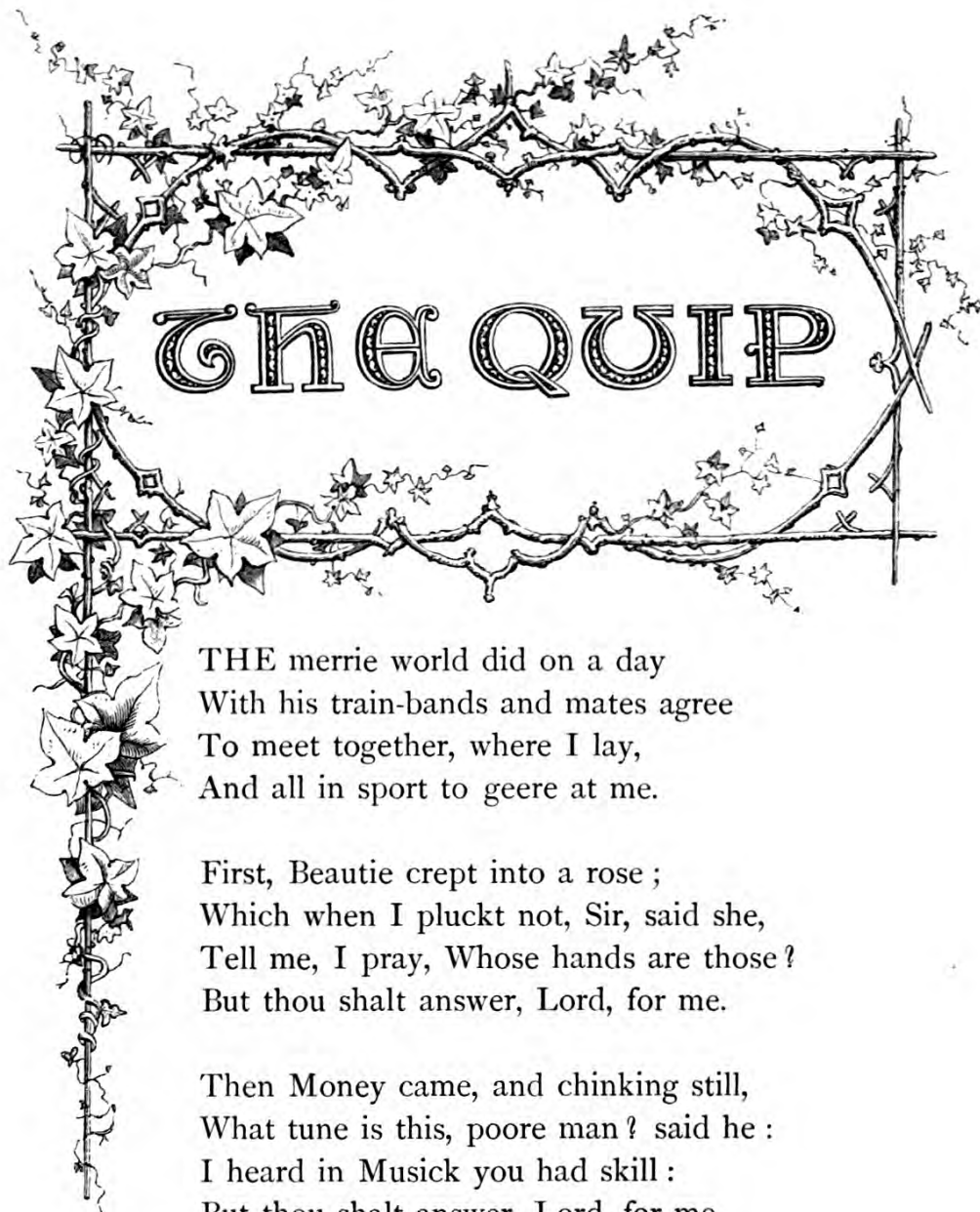
She in the valley is so shie
Of dressing, that her hair doth lie
About her eares :

While she avoids her neighbours pride,
She wholly goes on th' other side,
And nothing wears.

But, dearest Mother, (what those misse)
The mean thy praise and glorie is,
And long may be.

Blessed be God, whose love it was
To double-moat thee with his grace,
And none but thee.





THE QUIP

THE merrie world did on a day
 With his train-bands and mates agree
 To meet together, where I lay,
 And all in sport to geere at me.

First, Beautie crept into a rose ;
 Which when I pluckt not, Sir, said she,
 Tell me, I pray, Whose hands are those ?
 But thou shalt answer, Lord, for me.

Then Money came, and chinking still,
 What tune is this, poore man ? said he :
 I heard in Musick you had skill :
 But thou shalt answer, Lord, for me.

Then came brave Glorie puffing by
 In silks that whistled, who but he !
 He scarce allow'd me half an eie :
 But thou shalt answer, Lord, for me.

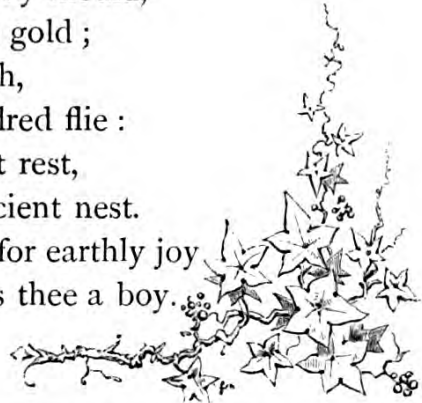
Then came quick Wit and Conversation,
And he would needs a comfort be,
And, to be short, make an oration.
But thou shalt answer, Lord, for me.

Yet when the houre of thy designe
To answer these fine things shall come ;
Speak not at large, say, I am thine,
And then they have their answer home.

VANITIE.

POORE silly soul, whose hope and head lies low ;
Whose flat delights on earth do creep and grow :
To whom the starres shine not so fair, as eyes ;
Nor solid work, as false embroyderies ;
Hark and beware, lest what you now do measure,
And write for sweet, prove a most sowre displeasure.

O heare betimes, lest thy relenting
 May come too late !
To purchase heaven for repenting
 Is no hard rate.
If souls be made of earthly mould,
 Let them love gold ;
 If born on high,
Let them unto their kindred flie :
For they can never be at rest,
Till they regain their ancient nest.
Then silly soul take heed ; for earthly joy
Is but a bubble, and makes thee a boy.



THE DAWNING.

AWAKE sad heart, whom sorrow ever drowns :

Take up thine eyes, which feed on earth,
 Unfold thy forehead gather'd into frowns :
 Thy Saviour comes, and with him mirth :

Awake, awake ;

And with a thankfull heart his comforts take.

But thou dost still lament, and pine, and crie ;
 And feel his death, but not his victorie.

Arise sad heart ; if thou dost not withstand,

Christ's resurrection thine may be :

Do not by hanging down break from the hand,
 Which as it riseth, raiseth thee :

Arise, arise ;

And with his buriall-linen drie thine eyes.

Christ left his grave-clothes, that we might, when grief
 Draws tears, or bloud, not want an handkerchief.

JESU.

JESU is in my heart, his sacred name

Is deeply carved there : but th' other week

A great affliction broke the little frame,

Ev'n all to pieces ; which I went to seek :

And first I found the corner where was *J*,

After, where *E S*, and next where *U* was graved.

When I had got these parcels, instantly

I sat me down to spell them, and perceived

That to my broken heart he was *I ease you*,

And to my whole is *JESU*.

BUSINESSE.

CANST be idle? canst thou play,
Foolish soul who sinn'd to day?

Rivers run, and springs each one
Know their home, and get them gone :
Hast thou tears, or hast thou none ?

If, poore soul, thou hast no tears ;
Would thou hadst no faults or fears !
Who hath these, those ill forbears.

Winded still work : it is their plot,
Be the season cold, or hot :
Hast thou sighs, or hast thou not ?

If thou hast no sighs or grones,
Would thou hadst no flesh and bones !
Lesser pains scape greater ones.

But if yet thou idle be,
Foolish soul, Who di'd for thee ?


Who did leave his Fathers throne,
To assume thy flesh and bone ?
Had he life, or had he none ?

If he had not liv'd for thee,
Thou hadst di'd most wretchedly ;
And two deaths had been thy fee.

He so farre thy good did plot,
That his own self he forgot.
Did he die, or did he not ?

If he had not di'd for thee,
Thou hadst liv'd in miserie.
Two lives worse then ten deaths be.

And hath any space of breath
'Twixt his sinnes and Saviours death ?



He that loseth gold, though drosse,
Tells to all he meets, his crosse :
He that sinnes, hath he no losse ?

He that findes a silver vein,
Thinks on it, and thinks again :
Brings thy Saviours death no gain ?

Who in heart not ever kneels,
Neither sinne nor Saviour feels.

DIALOGUE.

SWEETEST SAVIOUR, if my soul
Were but worth the having,
Quickly should I then controll
Any thought of waving.
But when all my care and pains
Cannot give the name of gains
To thy wretch so full of stains ;
What delight or hope remains ?

*What (childe), is the ballance thine,
Thine the poise and measure?
If I say, Thou shalt be mine,
Finger not my treasure.
What the gains in having thee
Do amount to, onely he,
Who for man was sold, can see,
That transferr'd th' accounts to me.*

But as I can see no merit,
Leading to this favour :
So the way to fit me for it,
Is beyond my savour.
As the reason then is thine ;
So the way is none of mine :
I disclaim the whole designe :
Sinne disclaims and I resigne.

*W*HAT is all, if that I could
Get without repining ;
And my clay my creature would
Follow my resigning :
That as I did freely part
With my glorie and desert,
Left all joyes to feel all smart——
Ah ! no more : thou break'st my heart.

DULNESSE.

WHY do I languish thus, drooping and dull,
As if I were all earth ?
O give me quicknesse, that I may with mirth
Praise thee brim-full !

The wanton lover in a curious strain
Can praise his fairest fair ;
And with quaint metaphors her curled hair
Curl o're again :

Thou art my lovelinesse, my life, my light,
Beautie alone to me :
Thy bloudie death and undeserv'd, makes thee
Pure red and white.

When all perfections as but one appeare,
That those thy form doth show,
The very dust, where thou dost tread and go
Makes beauties here ;

Where are my lines then ? my approaches ? views ?
Where are my window-songs ?
Lovers are still pretending, and ev'n wrongs
Sharpen their Muse.

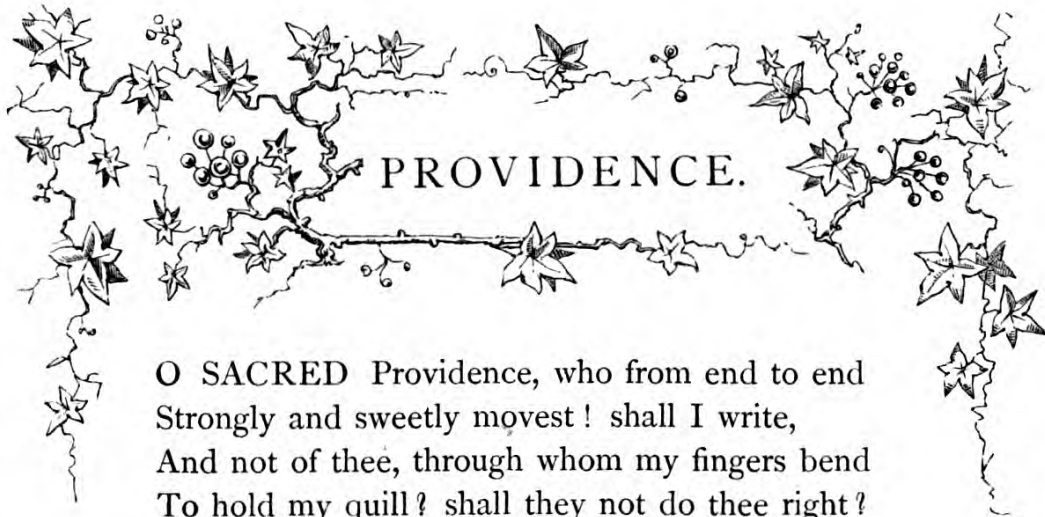
But I am lost in flesh, whose sugred lyes
Still mock me, and grow bold :
Sure thou didst put a minde there, if I could
Finde where it lies.

Lord, cleare thy gift, that with a constant wit
I may but look towards thee :
Look onely ; for to *love* thee, who can be,
What angel fit ?



LOVE-JOY.

AS on a window late I cast mine eye,
I saw a vine drop grapes with *J* and *C*
Anneal'd on every bunch. One standing by
Ask'd what it meant. I (who am never loth
To spend my judgement) said, It seem'd to me
To be the bodie and the letters both
Of *Joy and Charitie*; Sir, you have not miss'd,
The man reply'd; It figures *JESUS CHRIST*.



PROVIDENCE.

O SACRED Providence, who from end to end
Strongly and sweetly movest! shall I write,
And not of thee, through whom my fingers bend
To hold my quill? shall they not do thee right?

Of all the creatures both in sea and land,
Onely to Man thou hast made known thy wayes,
And put the penne alone into his hand,
And made him Secretarie of thy praise.

Beasts fain would sing ; birds dittie to their notes ;
Trees would be tuning on their native lute
To thy renown : but all their hands and throats
Are brought to Man, while they are lame and mute.

Man is the worlds high Priest : he doth present
The sacrifice for all ; while they below
Unto the service mutter an assent,
Such as springs use that fall, and windes that blow.

He that to praise and laud thee doth refrain,
Doth not refrain unto himself alone,
But robs a thousand who would praise thee fain ;
And doth commit a world of sinne in one.

The beasts say, Eat me ; but, if beasts must teach,
The tongue is yours to eat, but mine to praise.
The trees say, Pull me : but the hand you stretch
Is mine to write, as it is yours to raise.

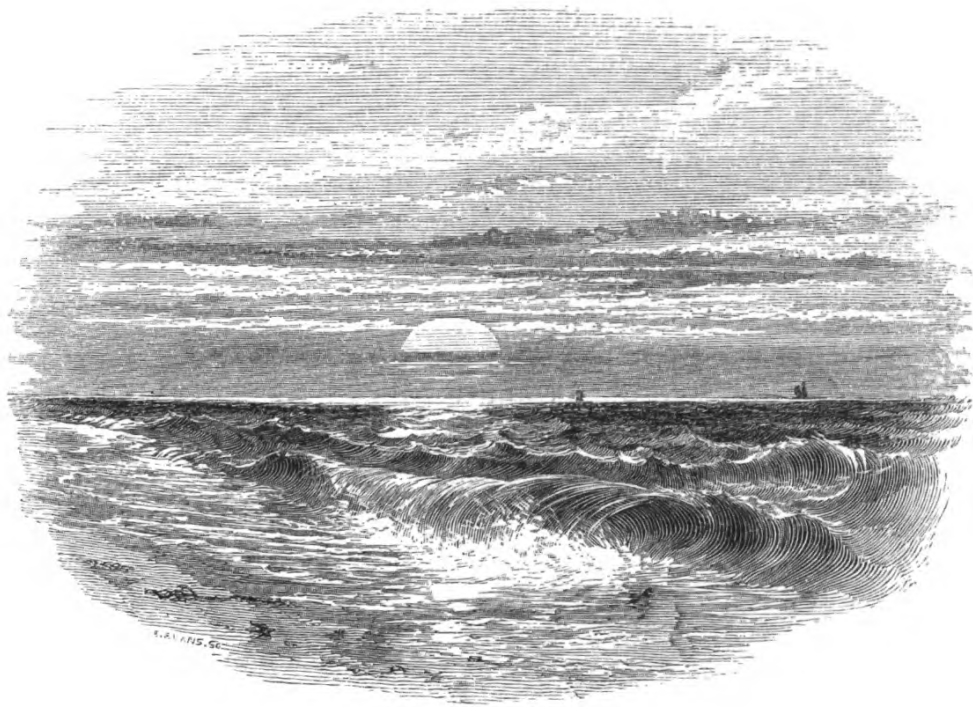
Wherefore, most sacred Spirit, I here present
For me and all my fellows praise to thee :
And just it is that I should pay the rent,
Because the benefit accrues to me.

We all acknowledge both thy power and love
To be exact, transcendent, and divine ;
Who dost so strongly and so sweetly move,
While all things have their will, yet none but thine.

For either thy *command*, or thy *permission*
Lay hands on all : they are thy *right* and *left* :
The first puts on with speed and expedition ;
The other curbs sinnes stealing pace and theft ;

Nothing escapes them both : all must appear,
And be dispos'd, and dress'd, and tun'd by thee,
Who sweetly temper'st all. If we could hear
Thy skill and art, what musick would it be !

Thou art in small things great, not small in any :
Thy even praise can neither rise, nor fall.
Thou art in all things one, in each thing many :
For thou art infinite in one and all.



Tempests are calm to thee, they know thy hand,
And hold it fast, as children do their fathers,
Which crie and follow. Thou hast made poore sand
Check the proud sea, ev'n when it swells and gathers.

Thy cupboard serves the world : the meat is set,
 Where all may reach : no beast but knows his feed.
 Birds teach us hawking : fishes have their net :
 The great prey on the lesse, they on some weed.

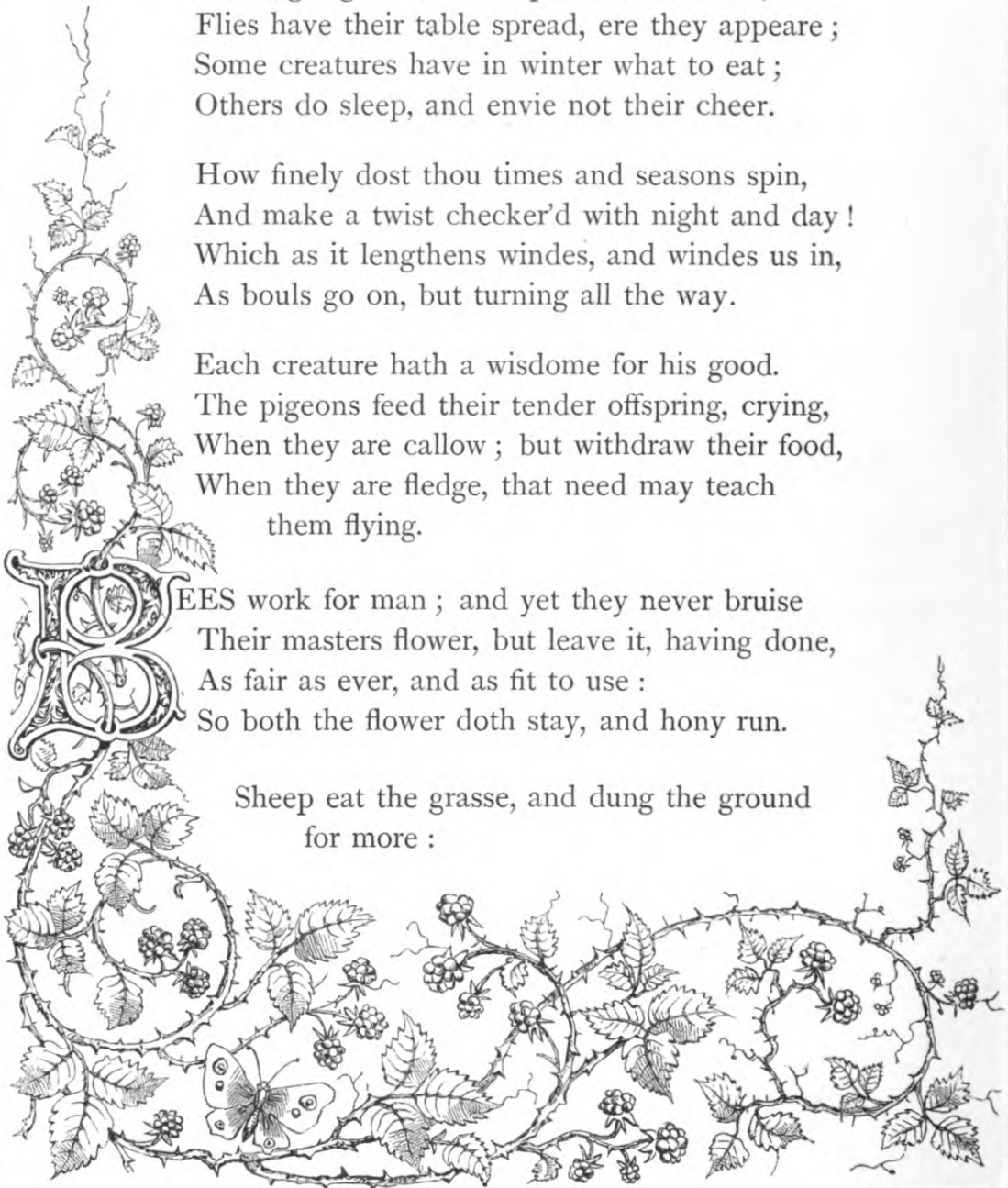
Nothing ingendred doth prevent his meat ;
 Flies have their table spread, ere they appeare ;
 Some creatures have in winter what to eat ;
 Others do sleep, and envie not their cheer.

How finely dost thou times and seasons spin,
 And make a twist checker'd with night and day !
 Which as it lengthens windes, and windes us in,
 As bouls go on, but turning all the way.

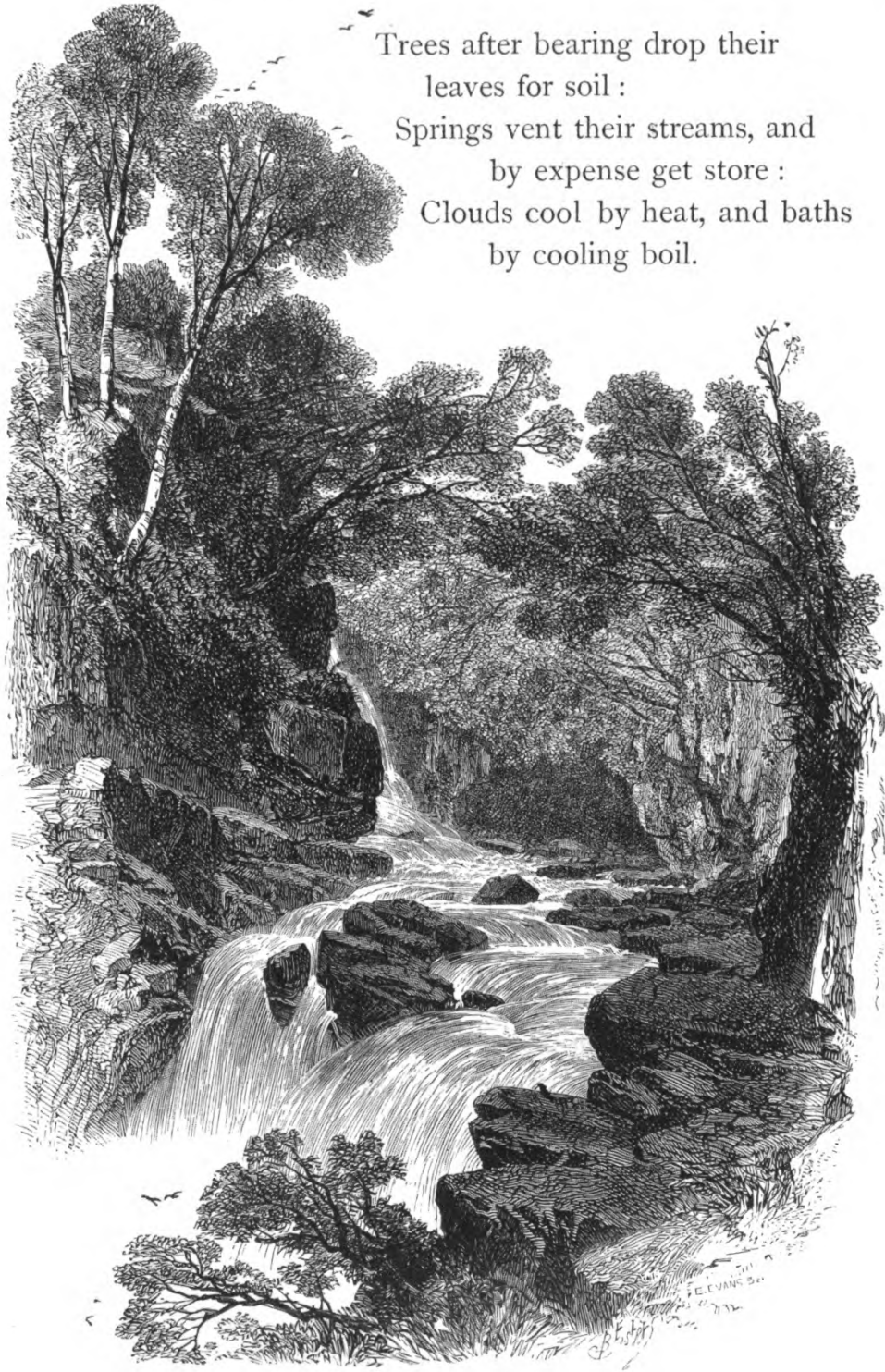
Each creature hath a wisdome for his good.
 The pigeons feed their tender offspring, crying,
 When they are callow ; but withdraw their food,
 When they are fledge, that need may teach
 them flying.

BEES work for man ; and yet they never bruise
 Their masters flower, but leave it, having done,
 As fair as ever, and as fit to use :
 So both the flower doth stay, and hony run.

Sheep eat the grasse, and dung the ground
 for more :



Trees after bearing drop their
leaves for soil :
Springs vent their streams, and
by expense get store :
Clouds cool by heat, and baths
by cooling boil.

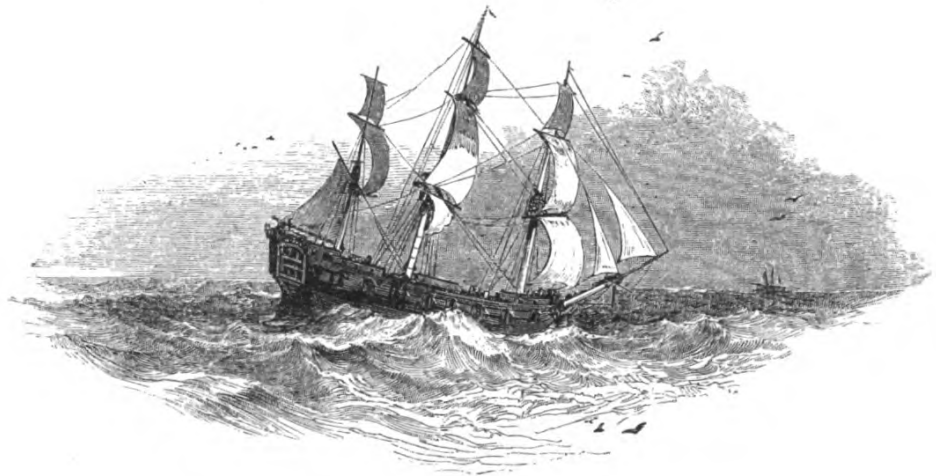


Who hath the vertue to expresse the rare
And curious vertues both of herbs and stones?
Is there an herb for that? O that thy care
Would show a root, that gives expressions!

And if an herb hath power, what hath the starres?
A rose, besides his beautie, is a cure.
Doubtlesse our plagues and plentie, peace and warres,
Are there much surer than our art is sure.

Thou hast hid metals: man may take them thence;
But at his perill: when he digs the place,
He makes a grave; as if the thing had sense,
And threatned man, that he should fill the space.

E'vn poysons praise thee. Should a thing be lost?
Should creatures want, for want of heed their due?
Since where are poysons, antidotes are most;
The help stands close, and keeps the fear in view.



The sea, which seems to stop the traveller,
Is by a ship the speedier passage made.

The windes, who think they rule the mariner,
Are rul'd by him, and taught to serve his trade.

And as thy house is full, so I adore
Thy curious art in marshalling thy goods.
The hills with health abound, the vales with store ;
The South with marble ; North with fures and woods.

Hard things are glorious ; easie things good cheap ;
The common all men have ; that which is rare,
Men therefore seek to have, and care to keep.
The healthy frosts with summer-fruits compare.

Light without winde is glasse : warm without weight
Is wooll and fures : cool without closenesse, shade :
Speed without pains, a horse : tall without height,
A servile hawk : low without losse, a spade.

All countries have enough to serve their need :
If they seek fine things, thou dost make them run
For their offence ; and then dost turn their speed
To be commerce and trade from sunne to sunne.

Nothing wears clothes, but Man ; nothing doth need
But he to wear them. Nothing useth fire,
But Man alone, to show his heav'nly breed :
And onely he hath fuell in desire.

When th' earth was dry, thou mad'st a sea of wet :
When that lay gather'd, thou didst broach the mountains :
When yet some places could no moisture get,
The windes grew gard'ners, and the clouds good fountains.

Rain, do not hurt my flowers ; but gently spend
Your hony drops : presse not to smell them here ;

When they are ripe, their odour will ascend,
And at your lodging with their thanks appeare.

How harsh are thorns to pears ! and yet they make
A better hedge, and need lesse reparation.
How smooth are silks compared with a stake,
Or with a stone ! yet make no good foundation.

Sometimes thou dost divide thy gifts to man,
Sometimes unite. The Indian nut alone
Is clothing, meat and trencher, drink and kan,
Boat, cable, sail and needle, all in one.

Most herbs that grow in brooks, are hot and dry.
Cold fruits warm kernells help against the winde.
The lemmons juice and rinde cure mutually.
The whey of milk doth loose, the milk doth binde.

Thy creatures leap not, but expresse a feast,
Where all the guests sit close, and nothing wants.
Frogs marry fish and flesh ; bats, bird and beast ;
Sponges, non-sense and sense ; mines, th' earth and plants.

To show thou art not bound, as if thy lot
Were worse than ours, sometimes thou shiftest hands.
Most things move th' under-jaw ; the Crocodile not.
Most things sleep lying, th' Elephant leans or stands.

But who hath praise enough ? nay, who hath any ?
None can expresse thy works, but he that knows them ;
And none can know thy works, which are so many,
And so complete, but onely he that owes them.

All things that are, though they have sev'rall wayes,
Yet in their being joyn with one advice

To honour thee : and so I give thee praise
In all my other hymnes, but in this twice.

Each thing that is, although in use and name
It go for one, hath many wayes in store
To honour thee ; and so each hymne thy fame
Extolleth many wayes, yet this one more.

HOPE.



GAVE to Hope a watch of mine : but he
An anchor gave to me.

Then an old prayer-book I did present :
And he an optick sent.

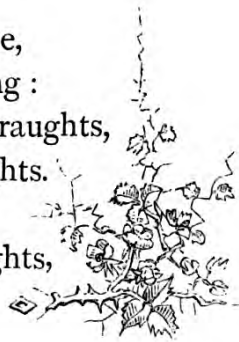
With that I gave a viall full of tears :
But he a few green eares.

Ah Loyterer ! I'le no more, no more I'le bring :
I did expect a ring.

SINNES ROUND.

SORRIE I am, my God, sorrie I am,
That my offences course it in a ring.
My thoughts are working like a busie flame,
Untill their cockatrice they hatch and bring :
And when they once have perfected their draughts,
My words take fire from my inflamed thoughts.

My words take fire from my inflamed thoughts,
Which spit it forth like the Sicilian hill.



They vent the wares, and passe them with their faults,
 And by their breathing ventilate the ill.
 But words suffice not, where are lewd intentions :
 My hands do joyn to finish the inventions :

My hands do joyn to finish the inventions :
 And so my sinnes ascend three stories high,
 As Bable grew, before there were dissentions.
 Yet ill deeds loyter not : for they supplie
 New thoughts of sinning ; wherefore, to my shame,
 Sorrie I am, my God, sorrie I am.

TIME.

MEETING with Time, slack thing, said I,
 Thy sithe is dull ; whet it for shame.
 No marvell Sir, he did replie,
 If it at length deserve some blame :
 But where one man would have me grinde it,
 Twentie for one too sharp do finde it.

Perhaps some such of old did passe,
 Who above all things lov'd this life ;
 To whom thy sithe a hatchet was,
 Which now is but a pruning-knife.
 Christ's coming hath made man thy debter,
 Since by thy cutting he grows better.

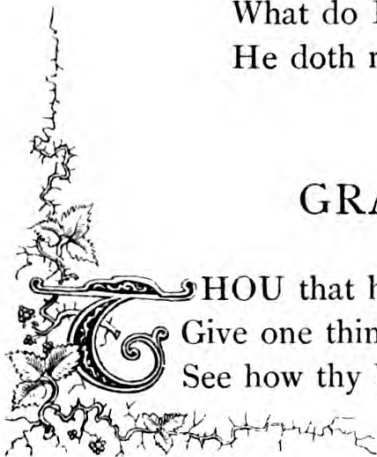
And in his blessing thou art blest :
 For where thou onely wert before
 An executioner at best,
 Thou art a gard'ner now, and more.

An usher to convey our souls
Beyond the utmost starres and poles.

And this is that makes life so long,
While it detains us from our God.
Ev'n pleasures here increase the wrong :
And length of dayes lengthen the rod.
Who wants the place, where God doth dwell,
Partakes already half of hell.

Of what strange length must that needs be,
Which ev'n eternitie excludes !
Thus farre Time heard me patiently :
Then chafing said, This man deludes :
What do I here before his doore ?
He doth not crave lesse time, but more.

GRATEFULNESSE.



THOU that hast giv'n so much to me,
Give one thing more, a gratefull heart.
See how thy beggar works on thee
By art.

He makes thy gifts occasion more,
And sayes, If he in this be crost,
All thou hast giv'n him heretofore
Is lost.

But thou didst reckon, when at first
Thy word our hearts and hands did crave,
What it would come to at the worst
To save.



Perpetuall knockings at thy doore,
 Tears sullyng thy transparent rooms,
 Gift upon gift ; much would have more,
 And comes.

This not withstanding, thou wentst on,
 And didst allow us all our noise :
 Nay thou hast made 'a sigh and grone
 Thy joyes.

Not that thou hast not still above
 Much better tunes, then grones can make ;
 But that these countrey-aires thy love
 Did take.

Wherefore I crie, and crie again ;
 And in no quiet canst thou be,
 Till I a thankfull heart obtain
 Of thee :

Not thankfull, when it pleaseth me ;
 As if thy blessings had spare dayes :
 But such a heart, whose pulse may be
 Thy praise.

PEACE.

SWEET Peace, where dost thou dwell? I humbly crave,
 Let me once know.
 I sought thee in a secret cave,
 And ask'd, if Peace were there.
 A hollow winde did seem to answer, No :
 Go seek elsewhere.



I did ; and going did a rainbow note :
Surely, thought I,
This is the lace of Peaces coat :
I will search out the matter.
But while I lookt, the clouds immediately
Did break and scatter.

Then went I to a garden, and did spy
A gallant flower,
The crown Imperiall : Sure, said I,
Peace at the root must dwell.
But when I digg'd, I saw a worm devoure
What show'd so well.

At length I met a rev'rend good old man :
 Whom when for Peace
 I did demand, he thus began ;
 There was a Prince of old
 At Salem dwelt, who liv'd with good increase
 Of flock and fold.

He sweetly liv'd ; yet sweetnesse did not save
 His life from foes.
 But after death out of his grave
 There sprang twelve stalks of wheat :
 Which many wondring at, got some of those
 To plant and set.

It prosper'd strangely, and did soon disperse
 Through all the earth :
 For they that taste it do rehearse,
 That vertue lies therein ;
 A secret vertue, bringing peace and mirth
 By flight of sinne.

Take of this grain, which in my garden grows,
 And grows for you ;
 Make bread of it : and that repose
 And peace, which ev'ry where
 With so much earnestnesse you do pursue
 Is onely there.

CONFESSION.

O WHAT a cunning guest
 Is this same grief ! within my heart I made
 Closets ; and in them many a chest ;

And like a master in my trade,
In those chests, boxes ; in each box, a till :
Yet grief knows all, and enters when he will.

No scrue, no piercer can
Into a piece of timber work and winde,
As Gods afflictions into man,
When he a torture hath design'd.
They are too subtill for the subt'llest hearts ;
And fall, like rheumes, upon the tendrest parts.

We are the earth ; and they,
Like moles within us, heave, and cast about :
And till they foot and clutch their prey,
They never cool, much lesse give out.
No smith can make such locks, but they have keyes ;
Closets are halls to them ; and hearts, high-ways.

Onely an open breast
Doth shut them out, so that they cannot enter ;
Or, if they enter, cannot rest,
But quickly seek some new adventure.
Smooth open hearts no fastning have ; but fiction
Doth give a hold and handle to affliction.

Wherefore my faults and sinnes,
Lord, I acknowledge ; take thy plagues away :
For since confession pardon winnes,
I challenge here the brightest day,
The clearest diamond : let them do their best,
They shall be thick and cloudie to my breast.



**GIDDINESSE.**

OH, what a thing is Man ! how farre from power,
From settled peace and rest !
He is some twentie sev'rall men at least
Each sev'rall houre.

One while he counts of heav'n, as of his treasure :
But then a thought creeps in,
And calls him coward, who for fear of sinne
Will lose a pleasure.

Now he will fight it out, and to the warres ;
Now eat his bread in peace,
And snudge in quiet : now he scorns increase ;
Now all day spares.

He builds a house, which quickly down must go,
As if a whirlwinde blew
And crusht the building : and it's partly true,
His minde is so.

O what a sight were Man, if his attires
Did alter with his minde ;
And, like a Dolphins skinne, his clothes combin'd
With his desires !

Surely if each one saw anothers heart,
There would be no commerce,
No sale or bargain passe : all would disperse,
And live apart.

Lord, mend or rather make us : one creation
Will not suffice our turn :
Except thou make us dayly, we shall spurn
Our own salvation.

The

BUNCH OF GRAPES

JOY, I did lock thee up : but some bad man
Hath let thee out again :
And now, methinks, I am where I began
Sev'n years ago : one vogue and vein,
One aire of thoughts usurps my brain,

I did toward Canaan draw ; but now I am
Brought back to the Red sea, the sea of shame.

For as the Jews of old by Gods command
Travell'd, and saw no town ;
So now each Christian hath his journeys spann'd :
Their storie pennes and sets us down.
A single deed is small renown.
Gods works are wide, and let in future times ;
His ancient justice overflows our crimes.

WHEN have we too our guardian fires and clouds ;
Our Scripture-dew drops fast :
We have our sands and serpents, tents and shrowds
Alas ! our murmurings come not last.
But where's the cluster ? where's the taste
Of mine inheritance ? Lord, if I must borrow,
Let me as well take up their joy, as sorrow.

But can he want the grape, who hath the wine ?
I have their fruit and more.
Blessed be God, who prosper'd Noahs vine,
And made it bring forth grapes good store.
But much more him I must adore,
Who of the laws sowre juice sweet wine did make,
Ev'n God himself, being pressed for my sake.

LOVE UNKNOWN.

DEARE friend, sit down, the tale is long and sad :
And in my faintings I presume your love
Will more comlie, then help. A Lord I had,
And have, of whom some grounds, which may improve,

I hold for two lives, and both lives in me.
To him I brought a dish of fruit one day,
And in the middle plac'd my heart. But he

(I sigh to say)

Lookt on a servant, who did know his eye
Better than you know me, or (which is one)
Then I myself. The servant instantly
Quitting the fruit, seiz'd on my heart alone,
And threw it in a font, wherein did fall
A stream of blood, which issued from the side
Of a great rock : I well remember all,
And have good cause : there it was dipt and di'd,
And washt, and wrung : the very wringing yet
Enforceth tears. *Your heart was foul, I fear.*
Indeed 'tis true. I did and do commit
Many a fault more than my lease will bear ;
Yet still askt pardon, and was not deni'd.
But you shall heare. After my heart was well,
And clean and fair, as I one even-tide

(I sigh to tell)

Walkt by myself abroad, I saw a large
And spacious fornace flaming, and thereon
A boylng caldron, round about whose verge
Was in great letters set *AFFLICTION*.
The greatnesse shew'd the owner. So I went
To fetch a sacrifice out of my fold,
Thinking with that, which I did thus present,
To warm his love, which I did fear grew cold.
But as my heart did tender it, the man
Who was to take it from me, slipt his hand,
And threw my heart into the scalding pan ;
My heart, that brought it (do you understand?)
The offerers heart. *Your heart was hard, I fear.*
Indeed 'tis true. I found a callous matter



Began to spread and to expatiate there :
 But with a richer drug, then scalding water,
 I bath'd it often, ev'n with holy bloud,
 Which at a board, while many drank bare wine,
 A friend did steal into my cup for good,
 Ev'n taken inwardly, and most divine
 To supple hardnesses. But at the length
 Out of the caldron getting, soon I fled
 Unto my house, where to repair the strength
 Which I had lost, I hasted to my bed :
 But when I thought to sleep out all these faults,

(I sigh to speak)

I found that some had stuff'd the bed with thoughts,
 I would say *thorns*. Deare, could my heart not break,
 When with my pleasures ev'n my rest was gone ?
 Full well I understood, who had been there :
 For I had giv'n the key to none, but one :
 It must be he. *Your heart was dull, I fear.*
 Indeed a slack and sleepe state of minde
 Did oft possesse me, so that when I pray'd,
 Though my lips went, my heart did stay behinde.
 But all my scores were by another paid,
 Who took the debt upon him. *Truly, Friend,*
For ought I heare, your Master shows to you
More favour than you wot of. Mark the end.
The Font did onely, what was old, renew :
The Caldron suppld, what was grown too hard :
The Thorns did quicken, what was grown too dull :
All did but strive to mend, what you had marr'd.
Wherefore be cheer'd, and praise him to the full
Each day, each houre, each moment of the week,
Who fain would have you be, new, tender, quick.



MAN'S MEDLEY.



HEAR, how the birds do sing,
And woods do ring.
All creatures have their joy, and man hath his.
Yet if we rightly measure,
Mans joy and pleasure
Rather hereafter, then in present, is.

To this life things of sense
Make their pretence :

In th' other Angels have a right by birth :
 Man ties them both alone,
 And makes them one,
With th' one hand touching heav'n, with th' other earth.

 In soul he mounts and flies,
 In flesh he dies.
He wears a stuffe whose thread is course and round,
 But trimm'd with curious lace,
 And should take place
After the trimming, not the stuffe and ground.

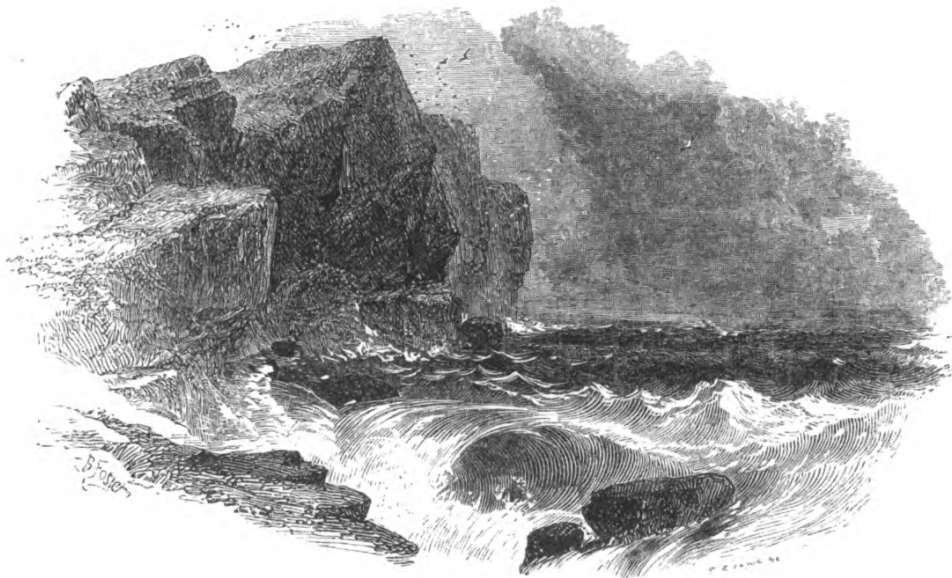
 Not, that he may not here
 Taste of the cheer :
But as birds drink, and straight lift up their head ;
 So must he sip and think
 Of better drink
He may attain to, after he is dead.

 But as his joyes are double,
 So is his trouble.
He hath two winters, other things but one :
 Both frosts and thoughts do nip :
 And bite his lip ;
And he of all things fears two deaths alone.

 Yet ev'n the greatest griefs
 May be reliefs,
Could he but take them right, and in their wayes.
 Happie is he, whose heart
 Hath found the art
To turn his double pains to double praise.

THE STORM.

IF as the windes and waters here below
Do flie and flow,
My sighs and tears as busy were above ;
Sure they would move
And much affect thee, as tempestuous times
Amaze poore mortals, and object their crimes.



Starres have their storms, ev'n in a high degree,
As well as we.
A throbbing conscience spurred by remorse
Hath a strange force :
It quits the earth, and mounting more and more,
Dares to assault thee, and besiege thy doore.

There it stands knocking, to thy musicks wrong,
And drowns the song.

Glorie and honour are set by till it
 An answer get.
 Poets have wrong'd poore storms : such dayes are best ;
 They purge the aire without, within the breast.

PARADISE.



BLESSE thee, Lord, because I GROW
 Among thy trees, which in a ROW
 To thee both fruit and order OW.

What open force, or hidden CHARM
 Can blast my fruit, or bring me HARM,
 While the inclosure is thine ARM?

Inclose me still for fear I START.
 Be to me rather sharp and TART,
 Than let me want thy hand and ART.

When thou dost greater judgements SPARE,
 And with thy knife but prune and PARE,
 Ev'n fruitful trees more fruitfull ARE.

Such sharpnes shows the sweetest FREND :
 Such cuttings rather heal than REND :
 And such beginnings touch their END.

THE METHOD.

POORE heart, lament.
 For since thy God refuseth still,
 There is some rub, some discontent,
 Which cools his will.



Thy father *could*
Quickly effect, what thou dost move ;
For he is *Power* : and sure he *would* ;
For he is *Love*.

Go search this thing,
Tumble thy breast, and turn thy book :
If thou hadst lost a glove or ring,
Wouldst thou not look ?

What do I see
Written above there ? *Yesterday*
I did behave me carelessly,
When I did pray.

And should Gods eare
To such indifferents chained be,
Who do not their own motions heare ?
Is God lesse free ?

But stay ! what's there ?
Late when I would have something done,
I had a motion to forbear,
Yet I went on.

And should Gods eare,
Which needs not man, be ty'd to those
Who heare not him, but quickly heare
His utter foes ?

Then once more pray :
Down with thy knees, up with thy voice :
Seek pardon first, and God will say,
Glad heart rejoyce.



AS men, for fear the starres should sleep and nod,
 And trip at night, have spheres suppli'd ;
 As if a starre were duller than a clod,
 Which knows his way without a guide :

Just so the other heav'n they also serve,
 Divinities transcendent skie :
 Which with the edge of wit they cut and carve.
 Reason triumphs, and faith lies by.

Could not that wisdom, which first broacht the wine,
 Have thicken'd it with definitions ?
 And jagg'd his seamlesse coat, had that been fine,
 With curious questions and divisions ?

But all the doctrine, which he taught and gave,
 Was cleare as heav'n, from whence it came.
 At least those beams of truth, which onely save,
 Surpasse in brightnesse any flame.

*Love God, and love your neighbour. Watch and pray.
 Do as you would be done unto.*

O dark instructions, ev'n as dark as day !
 Who can these Gordian knots undo ?

But he doth bid us take his bloud for wine.
 Bid what he please ; yet I am sure,

To take and taste what he doth there designe,
Is all that saves, and not obscure.

Then burn thy Epicycles, foolish man ;
Break all thy spheres, and save thy head ;
Faith needs no staffe of flesh, but stoutly can
To heav'n alone both go, and leade.

EPHESIANS iv. 30.

Grieve not the Holy Spirit, etc.

AND art thou grieved, sweet and sacred Dove,
When I am sowre,
And crosse thy love ?
Grieved for me ? the God of strength and power
Griev'd for a worm, which when I tread,
I passe away and leave it dead ?

Then weep, mine eyes, the God of love doth grieve :
Weep foolish heart,
And weeping live ;
For death is drie as dust. Yet if ye part,
End as the night, whose sable hue
Your sinnes expresse ; melt into dew.

When sawcie mirth shall knock or call at doore,
Cry out, Get hence,
Or cry no more.
Almightie God doth grieve, he puts on sense :
I sinne not to my grief alone,
But to my Gods too ; he doth grone.

O take thy lute, and tune it to a strain,
 Which may with thee
 All day complain.
 There can no discord but in ceasing be.
 Marbles can weep ; and surely strings
 More bowels have, than such hard things.

Lord, I adjudge myself to tears and grief,
 Ev'n endlesse tears
 Without relief.
 If a cleare spring for me no time forbears,
 But runnes, although I be not drie ;
 I am no Crystall, what shall I ?

Yet if I wail not still, since still to wail
 Nature denies ;
 And flesh would fail,
 If my deserts were masters of mine eyes :
 Lord, pardon, for thy sonne makes good
 My want of tears with store of bloud.

THE FAMILIE.

WHAT doth this noise of thoughts within my heart,
 As if they had a part ?
 What do these loud complaints and pulling fears,
 As if there were no rule or eares ?

But, Lord, the house and familie are thine,
 Though some of them repine.
 Turn out these wranglers, which defile thy seat :
 For where thou dwellest all is neat.

First Peace and Silence all disputes controll,
 Then order plaies the soul ;

And giving all things their set forms and houres,
Makes of wilde woods sweet walks and bowres.

Humble Obedience neare the doore doth stand,
Expecting a command :
Then whom in waiting nothing seems more slow,
Nothing more quick when she doth go.

Joyes oft are there, and griefs as oft as joyes ;
But griefs without a noise :
Yet speak they louder, then distemper'd fears :
What is so shrill as silent tears ?

This is thy house, with these it doth abound :
And where these are not found,
Perhaps thou com'st sometimes, and for a day ;
But not to make a constant stay.



CONTENT thee, greedie heart.
Modest and moderate joyes to those, that have
Title to more hereafter when they part,
Are passing brave.
Let th' upper springs into the low
Descend and fall, and thou dost flow.

What though some have a fraught
 Of cloves and nutmegs, and in cinamon sail?
 If thou hast wherewithall to spice a draught,
 When griefs prevail,
 And for the future time art heir
 To th' Isle of spices, Is't not fair?

To be in both worlds full
 Is more then God was, who was hungrie here.
 Wouldst thou his laws of fasting disanull?
 Enact good cheer?
 Lay out thy joy, yet hope to save it?
 Wouldst thou both eat thy cake, and have it?

Great joyes are all at once;
 But little do reserve themselves for more:
 Those have their hopes; these what they have renounce,
 And live on score:
 Those are at home; these journey still,
 And meet the rest on Sions hill.

Thy Saviour sentenc'd joy,
 And in the flesh condemn'd it as unfit,
 At least in lump: for such doth oft destroy;
 Whereas a bit
 Doth tice us on to hopes of more,
 And for the present health restore.

A Christians state and case
 Is not a corpulent, but a thinne and spare,
 Yet active strength: whose long and bonie face
 Content and care
 Do seem to equally divide,
 Like a pretender, not a bride.

Wherefore sit down, good heart ;
 Grasp not at much, for fear thou lovest all.
 If comforts fell according to desert,
 They would great frosts and snows destroy :
 For we should count, Since the last joy.

Then close again the seam,
 Which thou hast open'd ; do not spread thy robe
 In hope of great things. Call to mind thy dream,
 An earthly globe,
 On whose meridian was engraven,
These seas are tears, and heav'n the haven.



ARTILLERIE.

AS I one ev'ning sat before my cell,
 Me thought a starre did shoot into my lap.
 I rose, and shook my clothes, as knowing well,
 That from small fires comes oft no small mishap :
 When suddenly I heard one say,
Do as thou usest, disobey,
Expell good motions from thy breast,
Which have the face of fire, but end in rest.

I, who had heard of musick in the spheres,
 But not of speech in starres, began to muse :
 But turning to my God, whose ministers
 The starres and all things are ; If I refuse,
 Dread Lord, said I, so oft my good ;
 Then I refuse not ev'n with bloud
 To wash away my stubborn thought :
 For I will do, or suffer what I ought.

But I have also starres and shooters too,
 Born where thy servants both artilleries use.
 My tears and prayers night and day do wooe,
 And work up to thee ; yet thou dost refuse.
 Not but I am (I must say still)
 Much more oblig'd to do thy will,
 Than thou to grant mine : but because
 Thy promise now hath ev'n set thee thy laws.

Then we are shooters both, and thou dost deigne
 To enter combate with us, and contest
 With thine own clay. But I would parley fain :
 Shunne not my arrows, and behold my breast.
 Yet if thou shunnest, I am thine :
 I must be so, if I am mine.
 There is no articing with thee :
 I am but finite, yet thine infinitely.

CHURCH RENTS AND SCHISMES.

BRAVE rose, (alas !) where art thou ? in the chair,
 Where thou didst lately so triumph and shine,
 A worm doth sit, whose many feet and hair
 Are the more foul, the more thou wert divine.
 This, this hath done it, this did bite the root
 And bottome of the leaves : which when the winde
 Did once perceive, it blew them under foot,
 Where rude unhallow'd steps do crush and grinde
 Their beauteous glories. Onely shreds of thee,
 And those all bitten, in thy chair I see.

Why doth my Mother blush ? is she the rose,
 And shows it so ? Indeed Christs precious bloud

Gave you a colour once ; which when your foes
Thought to let out, the bleeding did you good,
And made you look much fresher then before.
But when debates and fretting jealousies
Did worm and work within you more and more,
Your colour faded, and calamities
Turned your ruddie into pale and bleak :
Your health and beautie both began to break.

WHEN did your sev'rall parts unloose and start :
Which when your neighbours saw, like a north-winde
They rushed in, and cast them in the dirt
Where Pagans tread. O Mother deare and kinde,
Where shall I get me eyes enough to weep,
As many eyes as starres ? since it is night,
And much of Asia and Europe fast asleep,
And ev'n all Africk ; would at least I might
With these two poore ones lick up all the dew,
Which falls by night, and poure it out for you !

JUSTICE.

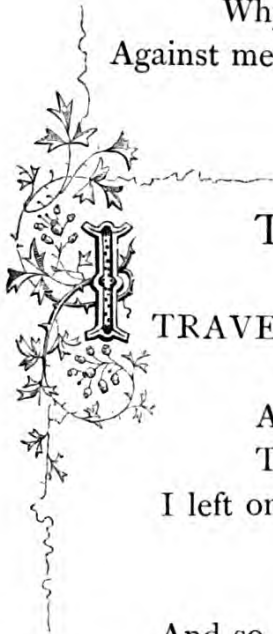
O DREADFULL justice, what a fright and terrour
Wast thou of old,
When sinne and errour
Did show and shape thy looks to me,
And through their glasse discolour thee !
He that did but look up, was proud and bold.

The dishes of thy ballance seem'd to gape,
Like two great pits ;
The beam and scape
Did like some tott'ring engine show :

Thy hand above did burn and glow,
Danting the stoutest hearts, the proudest wits.

But now that Christs pure vail presents the sight,
I see no fears :
Thy hand is white,
Thy scales like buckets, which attend
And interchangeably descend,
Lifting to heaven from this well of tears.

For where before thou still didst call on me,
Now I still touch
And harp on thee.
Gods promises hath made thee mine :
Why should I justice now decline ?
Against me there is none, but for me much.



THE PILGRIMAGE.

TRAVELL'D on, seeing the hill, where lay
My expectation.
A long it was and weary way.
The gloomy cave of Desperation
I left on th' one, and on the other side
The rock of Pride.

And so I came to phansies meadow strow'd
With many a flower :
Fain would I here have made abode,
But I was quicken'd by my houre.
So to cares cops I came, and there got through
With much ado.

That led me to the wilde of passion ; which
 Some call the wold ;
 A wasted place, but sometimes rich.
 Here I was robb'd of all my gold,
 Save one good Angell, which a friend had ti'd
 Close to my side.

At length I got unto the gladsome hill,
 Where lay my hope,
 Where lay my heart ; and climbing still,
 When I had gain'd the brow and top,
 A lake of brackish waters on the ground
 Was all I found.

With that abash'd and struck with many a sting
 Of swarming fears,
 I fell, and cry'd, Alas my King ;
 Can both the way and end be tears ?
 Yet taking heart I rose, and then perceiv'd
 I was deceiv'd :

My hill was further : so I flung away,
 Yet heard a crie
 Just as I went, *None goes that way*
And lives : If that be all, said I,
 After so foul a journey death is fair,
 And but a chair.

THE HOLDFAST.

I THREATNED to observe the strict decree
 Of my deare God with all my power and might :
 But I was told by one, it could not be ;
 Yet I might trust in God to be my light.

Then will I trust, said I, in him alone.
 Nay, ev'n to trust in him, was also his :
 We must confesse, that nothing is our own.
 Then I confesse that he my succour is :

But to have nought is ours, not to confesse
 That we have nought. I stood amaz'd at this,
 Much troubled, till I heard a friend expresse,
 That all things were more ours by being his.
 What Adam had, and forfeited for all,
 Christ keepeth now, who cannot fail or fall.

COMPLAINING.

DO not beguile my heart,
 Because thou art
 My power and wisdom. Put me not to shame,
 Because I am
 Thy clay that weeps, thy dust that calls.

Thou art the Lord of glorie ;
 The deed and storie
 Are both thy due : but I a silly flie,
 That live or die,
 According as the weather falls.

Art thou all justice, Lord ?
 Shows not thy word
 More attributes ? Am I all throat or eye,
 To weep or crie ?
 Have I no parts but those of grief ?

Let not thy wrathfull power
Afflict my houre,
My inch of life : or let thy gracious power
Contract my houre,
That I may climbe and finde relief.



BUSIE enquiring heart, what wouldst thou know ?
Why dost thou prie,
And turn, and leer, and with a licorous eye
Look high and low ;
And in thy lookings stretch and grow ?

Hast thou not made thy counts, and summ'd up all ?
Did not thy heart
Give up the whole, and with the whole depart ?
Let what will fall :
That which is past who can recall ?

Thy life is Gods, thy time to come is gone,
And is his right.
He is thy night at noon : he is at night
Thy noon alone.
The crop is his, for he hath sown.

And well it was for thee, when this befell,
That God did make
Thy businesse his, and in thy life partake :
For thou canst tell,
If it be his once, all is well.

Onely the present is thy part and fee.
And happy thou,
If, though thou didst not beat thy future brow,
Thou couldst well see
What present things requir'd of thee.

They ask enough ; why shouldst thou further go ?
Raise not the mudde
Of future depths, but drink the cleare and good.
Dig not for wo
In times to come ; for it will grow.

Man and the present fit : if he provide,
He breaks the square.
This houre is mine : if for the next I care,
I grow too wide,
And do encroach upon deaths side :

For death each houre environs and surrounds.
He that would know
And care for future chances, cannot go
Unto those grounds,
But thro' a Church-yard which them bounds.

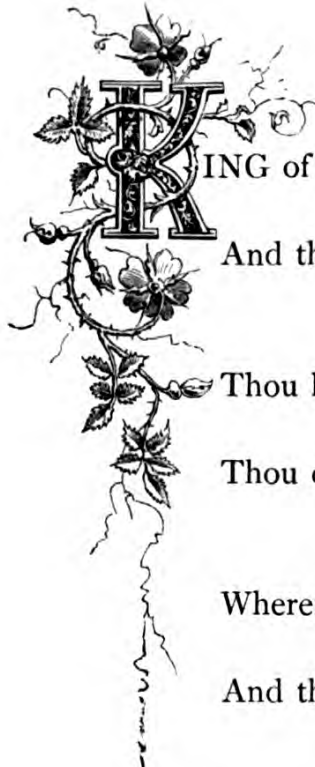


Things present shrink and die : but they that spend
Their thoughts and sense
On future grief, do not remove it thence,
But it extend,
And draw the bottome out an end.

God chains the dog till night : wilt loose the chain,
And wake thy sorrow ?
Wilt thou forestall it, and now grieve to morrow,
And then again
Grieve over freshly all thy pain ?

Either grief will not come : or if it must,
Do not forecast :
And while it cometh, it is almost past.
Away distrust :
My God hath promis'd ; he is just.

PRAISE.



KING of glorie, King of peace,
 I will love thee :
 And that love may never cease,
 I will move thee.

Thou hast granted my request,
 Thou hast heard me :
 Thou didst note my working breast,
 Thou hast spar'd me.

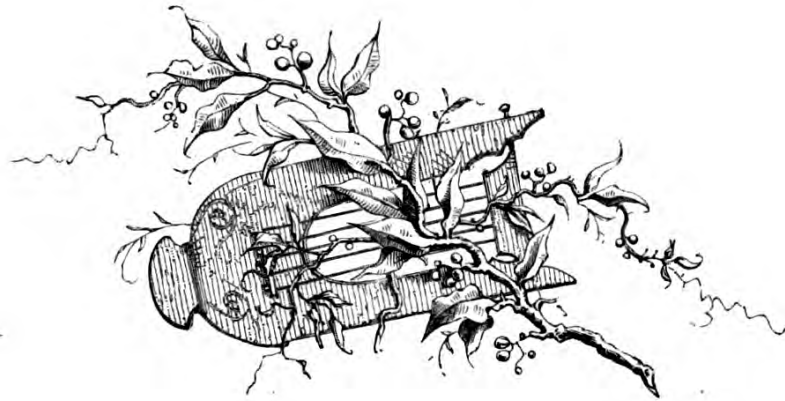
Wherefore with my utmost art
 I will sing thee,
 And the cream of all my heart
 I will bring thee.

Though my sinnes against me cried,
 Thou didst cleare me ;
 And alone, when they replied,
 Thou didst heare me.

Sev'n whole dayes, not one in seven,
 I will praise thee.
 In my heart, though not in heaven,
 I can raise thee.

Thou grew'st soft and moist with tears,
 Thou relentedst.
 And when Justice call'd for fears,
 Thou dissentedst.

Small it is, in this poore sort
To enroll thee :
Ev'n eternitie is too short
To extoll thee.



AN OFFERING.

COME, bring thy gift. If blessings were as slow
As mens returns, what would become of fools ?
What hast thou there ? a heart ? but is it pure ?
Search well and see ; for hearts have many holes.
Yet one pure heart is nothing to bestow :
In Christ two natures met to be thy cure.

O that within us hearts had propagation,
Since many gifts do challenge many hearts !
Yet one, if good, may title to a number ;
And single things grow fruitfull by deserts.
In publick judgments one may be a nation.
And fence a plague, while others sleep and slumber.

But all I fear is lest thy heart displease,
As neither good, nor one : so oft divisions

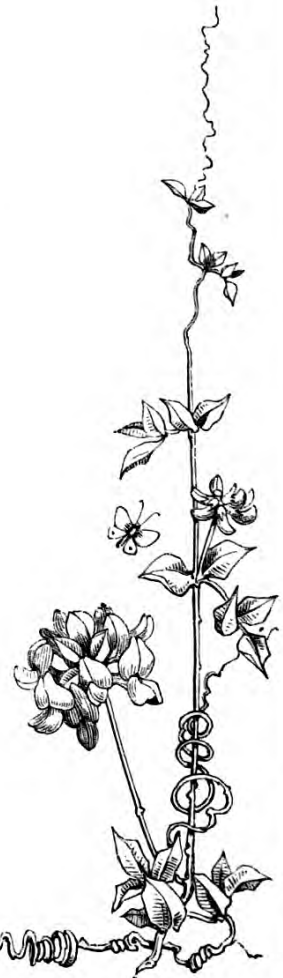
Thy lusts have made, and not thy lusts alone ;
 Thy passions also have their set partitions.
 These parcell out thy heart : recover these,
 And thou mayst offer many gifts in one.

There is a balsome, or indeed a bloud,
 Dropping from heav'n, which doth both cleanse and close
 All sorts of wounds ; of such strange force it is.
 Seek out this All-heal, and seek no repose,
 Until thou finde, and use it to thy good :
 Then bring thy gift ; and let thy hymne be this ;

SINCE my sadnesse
 Into gladnesse,
 Lord, thou dost convert,
 O accept
 What thou hast kept
 As thy due desert.

Had I many,
 Had I any,
 (For this heart is none)
 All were thine
 And none of mine,
 Surely thine alone.

Yet thy favour
 May give savour
 To this poore oblation ;
 And it raise
 To be thy praise,
 And be my salvation.





LONGING.

WITH sick and famisht eyes,
With doubling knees and weary bones,
To thee my cries,
To thee my grones,
To thee my sighs, my tears ascend :
No end ?

My throat, my soul is hoarse ;
My heart is wither'd like a ground
Which thou dost curse.

My thoughts turn round,
And make me giddie ; Lord, I fall,
Yet call.

From thee all pitie flows.
Mothers are kinde, because thou art,
And dost dispose
To them a part :
Their infants, them ; and they suck thee
More free.

Bowels of pitie, heare !
Lord of my soul, love of my minde,
Bow down thine eare !
Let not the winde
Scatter my words, and in the same
Thy name !

Look on my sorrows round !
Mark well my furnace ! O what flames,
What heats abound !
What griefs, what shames !
Consider, Lord ; Lord, bow thine eare,
And heare !

Lord Jesu, thou didst bow
Thy dying head upon the tree :
O be not now
More dead to me !
Lord, heare ! *Shall he that made the eare
Not heare ?*

Behold, thy dust doth stirre ;
It moves, it creeps, it aims at thee :



Wilt thou deferre
To succour me,
Thy pile of dust, wherein each crumme
Sayer, Come ?

To thee help appertains.
Hast thou left all things to their course,
And laid the reins
Upon the horse ?
Is all lockt ? hath a sinners plea
No key ?

Indeed the world's thy book,
Where all things have their leafe assign'd :
Yet a meek look
Hath interlin'd.
Thy board is full, yet humble guests
Finde nests.

Thou tarriest, while I die,
And fall to nothing : thou dost reigne,
And rule on high,
While I remain
In bitter grief : yet am I stil'd
Thy childe.

Lord, didst thou leave thy throne,
Not to relieve ? how can it be,
That thou art grown
Thus hard to me ?
Were sinne alive, good cause there were
To bear.

But now both sinne is dead,
And all thy promises live and bide.

That wants his head ;
These speak and chide,
And in thy bosome poure my tears,
As theirs.

Lord Jesu, heare my heart,
Which hath been broken now so long,
That ev'ry part
Hath got a tongue !
Thy beggars grow ; rid them away
To-day.

My love, my sweetnesse, heare !
By these thy feet, at which my heart
Lies all the yeare,
Pluck out thy dart,
And heal my troubled breast which cries,
Which dyes.



THE BAG.

AWAY despair ; my gracious Lord doth heare,
Though windes and waves assault my keel,
He doth preserve it : he doth steer,
Ev'n when the boat seems most to reel.
Storms are the triumph of his art :
Well may he close his eyes, but not his heart.

Hast thou not heard, that my Lord JESUS di'd ?
Then let me tell thee a strange storie.
The God of power, as he did ride
In his majestick robes of glorie,
Resolv'd to light ; and so one day
He did descend, undressing all the way.

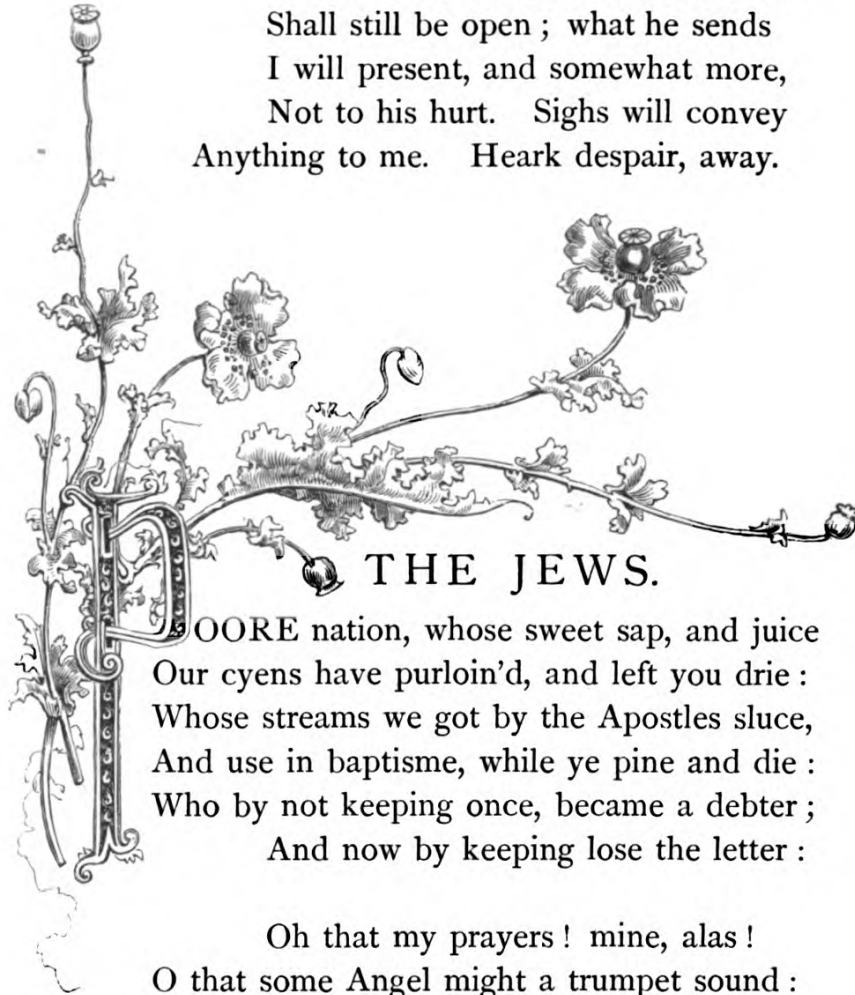
The starres his tire of light and rings obtain'd,
The cloud his bow, the fire his spear,
The sky his azure mantle gain'd.
And when they ask'd, what he would wear ;
He smil'd, and said as he did go,
He had new clothes a making here below.

When he was come, as travellers are wont,
He did repair unto an inne.
Both then, and after, many a brunt
He did endure to cancell sinne :
And having giv'n the rest before,
Here he gave up his life to pay our score.

But as he was returning, there came one
That ran upon him with a spear.
He, who came hither all alone,
Bringing nor man, nor arms, nor fear,
Receiv'd the blow upon his side,
And straight he turn'd, and to his brethren cry'd,

If ye have any thing to send or write,
(I have no bag, but here is room)
Unto my fathers hands and sight
(Beleeve me) it shall safely come.
That I shall minde, what you impart ;
Look, you may put it very neare my heart.

Or if hereafter any of my friends
 Will use me in this kinde, the doore
 Shall still be open ; what he sends
 I will present, and somewhat more,
 Not to his hurt. Sighs will convey
 Anything to me. Hark despair, away.



THE JEWS.

FOORE nation, whose sweet sap, and juice
 Our cyens have purloin'd, and left you drie :
 Whose streams we got by the Apostles sluce,
 And use in baptisme, while ye pine and die :
 Who by not keeping once, became a debter ;
 And now by keeping lose the letter :

Oh that my prayers ! mine, alas !
 O that some Angel might a trumpet sound :
 At which the Church falling upon her face
 Should crie so loud, untill the trump were drown'd,
 And by that crie of her deare Lord obtain,
 That your sweet sap might come again !

THE COLLAR.

I STRUCK the board, and cry'd, No more ;
 I will abroad.

What? shall I ever sigh and pine?
My lines and life are free; free as the roe,
Loose as the winde, as large as store.
 Shall I be still in suit?
Have I no harvest but a thorn
To let me bloud, and not restore
What I have lost with cordiall fruit?
 Sure there was wine,
Before my sighs did drie it: there was corn,
 Before my tears did drown it.
Is the yeare onely lost to me?
 Have I no bayes to crown it?
No flowers, no garlands gay? all blasted?
 All wasted?
Not so, my heart: but there is fruit,
 And thou hast hands.
Recover all thy sigh-blown age
On double pleasures: leave thy cold dispute
Of what is fit, and not forsake thy cage,
 Thy rope of sands,
Which petty thoughts have made, and made to thee
 Good cable, to enforce and draw,
 And be thy law,
While thou didst wink and wouldst not see.
 Away; take heed:
 I will abroad.
Call in thy deaths head there: tie up thy fears.
 He that forbears
 To suit and serve his need,
 Deserves his load.
But as I rav'd and grew more fierce and wilde,
 At every word,
Methought I heard one calling, *Childe*:
 And I reply'd, *My Lord*.

THE GLIMPSE.

WHITHER away delight ?
Thou cam'st but now ; wilt thou so soon depart,
And give me up to night ?
For many weeks of lingring pain and smart
But one half houre of comfort for my heart ?

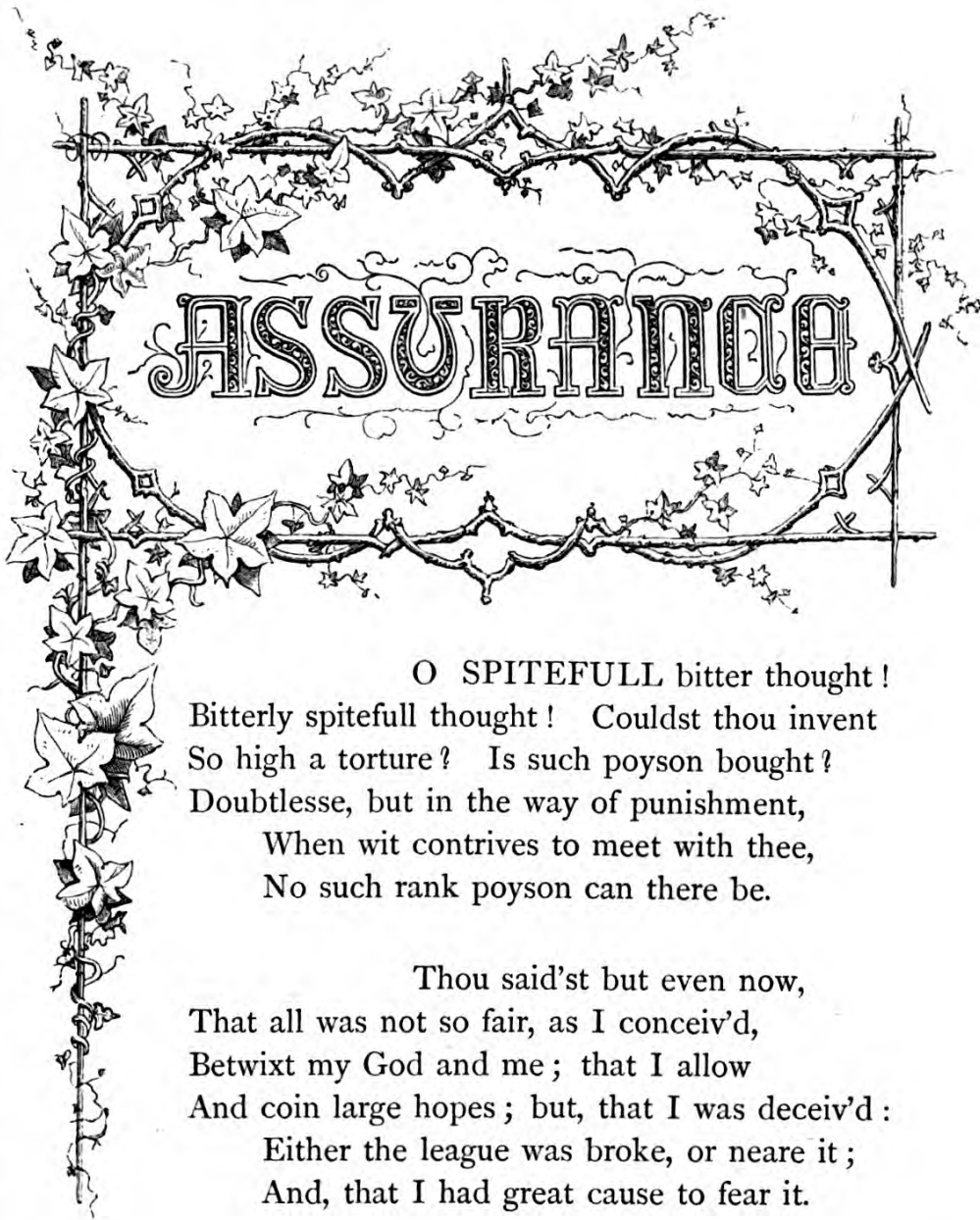
Methinks delight should have
More skill in musick, and keep better time.
Wert thou a winde or wave,
They quickly go and come with lesser crime :
Flowers look about, and die not in their prime.

Thy short abode and stay
Feeds not, but addes to the desire of meat.
Lime begg'd of old (they say)
A neighbour spring to cool his inward heat ;
Which by the springs accesse grew much more great.

In hope of thee my heart
Pickt here and there a crumme, and would not die ;
But constant to his part,
When as my fears foretold this, did replie,
A slender thread a gentle guest will tie.

Yet if the heart that wept
Must let thee go, return when it doth knock.
Although thy heap be kept
For future times, the droppings of the stock
May oft break forth, and never break the lock.

If I have more to spinne,
The wheel shall go, so that thy stay be short.
Thou knowst how grief and sinne
Disturb the work. O make me not their sport,
Who by thy coming may be made a court !



O SPITEFULL bitter thought !
Bitterly spitefull thought ! Couldst thou invent
So high a torture ? Is such poyson bought ?
Doubtlesse, but in the way of punishment,
When wit contrives to meet with thee,
No such rank poyson can there be.

Thou said'st but even now,
That all was not so fair, as I conceiv'd,
Betwixt my God and me ; that I allow
And coin large hopes ; but, that I was deceiv'd :
Either the league was broke, or neare it ;
And, that I had great cause to fear it.

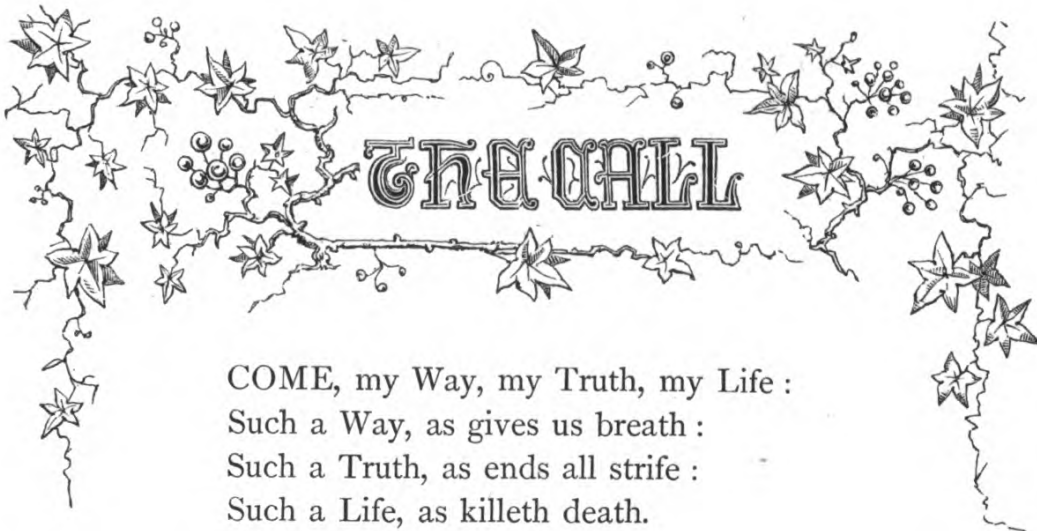
And what to this? what more
Could poyson, if it had a tongue, expresse?
What is thy aim? wouldst thou unlock the doore
To cold despairs, and gnawing pensiveness?
Wouldst thou raise devils? I see, I know,
I writ thy purpose long ago.

But I will to my Father,
Who heard thee say it. O most gracious Lord,
If all the hope and comfort that I gather,
Were from myself, I had not half a word,
Not half a letter to oppose
What is objected by my foes.

But thou art my desert :
And in this league, which now my foes invade,
Thou art not onely to perform thy part,
But also mine ; as when the league was made,
Thou didst at once thyself indite,
And hold my hand, while I did write.

Wherefore if thou canst fail,
Then can thy truth and I : but while rocks stand,
And rivers stirre, thou canst not shrink or quail :
Yea, when both rocks and all things shall disband,
Then shalt thou be my rock and tower,
And make their ruine praise thy power.

Now foolish thought go on,
Spin out thy thread, and make thereof a coat
To hide thy shame : for thou hast cast a bone,
Which bounds on thee, and will not down thy throat.
What for itself love once began,
Now love and truth will end in man.



COME, my Way, my Truth, my Life :
Such a Way, as gives us breath :
Such a Truth, as ends all strife :
Such a Life, as killeth death.

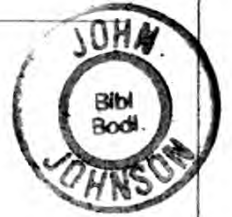
Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength :
Such a Light, as shows a feast :
Such a Feast, as mends in length :
Such a Strength, as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart :
Such a Joy, as none can move :
Such a Love, as none can part :
Such a Heart, as joyes in love.



CLASPING OF HANDS.

LORD, thou art mine, and I am thine,
If mine I am : and thine much more,



Than I or ought, or can be mine.
 Yet to be thine, doth me restore ;
 So that again I now am mine,
 And with advantage mine the more.
 Since this being mine, brings with it thine,
 And thou with me dost thee restore.
 If I without thee would be mine,
 I neither should be mine nor thine.

Lord, I am thine, and thou art mine :
 So mine thou art, that something more
 I may presume thee mine, then thine.
 For thou didst suffer to restore
 Not thee, but me, and to be mine :
 And with advantage mine the more,
 Since thou in death wast none of thine,
 Yet then as mine didst me restore.
 O be mine still ! still make me thine ;
 Or rather make no Thine and Mine !



LORD, I will mean and speak thy praise,
 Thy praise alone.
 My busie heart shall spin it all my dayes :
 And when it stops for want of store,
 Then will I wring it with a sigh or grone,
 That thou mayst yet have more.

When thou dost favour any action,
It runnes, it flies :
All things concurre to give it a perfection.
That which had but two legs before,
When thou dost blesse, hath twelve : one wheel doth rise
To twentie then, or more.

But when thou dost on businesse blow,
It hangs, it clogs :
Not all the teams of Albion in a row
Can hale or draw it out of doore.
Legs are but stumps, and Pharaohs wheels but logs,
And struggling hinders more.

Thousands of things do thee employ
In ruling all
This spacious globe : Angels must have their joy,
Devils their rod, the sea his shore,
The windes their stint : and yet when I did call,
Thou heardst my call, and more.

I have not lost one single tear :
But when mine eyes
Did weep to heav'n, they found a bottle there
(As we have boxes for the poore)
Readie to take them in ; yet of a size
That would contain much more.

But after thou hadst slipt a drop
From thy right eye
(Which there did hang like streamers neare the top
Of some fair church to show the sore
And bloudie battell which thou once didst trie)
The glasse was full and more.

Wherefore I sing. Yet since my heart,
 Though press'd, runnes thin ;
 O that I might some other hearts convert,
 And so take up at use good store :
 That to thy chests there might be coming in
 Both all my praise, and more !

JOSEPH'S COAT.

WOUNDED I sing, tormented I indite,
 Thrown down I fall into a bed, and rest :
 Sorrow hath chang'd its note : such is his will
 Who changeth all things, as him pleaseth best.
 For well he knows, if but one grief and smart
 Among my many had his full career,

Sure it would carrie with it ev'n my heart,
 And both would runne until they found a biere
 To fetch the bodie ; both being due to grief.
 But he hath spoil'd the race ; and giv'n to anguish
 One of Joyes coats, ticing it with relief
 To linger in me, and together languish.
 I live to shew his power, who once did bring
 My *joyes* to *weep*, and now my *griefs* to *sing*.

THE PULLAY

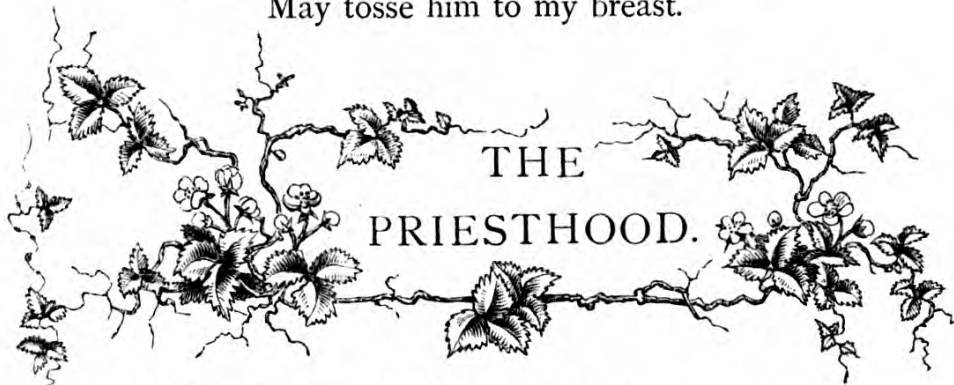
WHEN God at first made man,
 Having a glasse of blessings standing by ;
 Let us (said he) poure on him all we can :

Let the worlds riches, which dispersed lie,
Contract into a span.

So strength first made a way ;
Then beautie flow'd, then wisdom, honour, pleasure :
When almost all was out, God made a stay,
Perceiving that alone, of all his treasure,
Rest in the bottome lay.

For if I should (said he)
Bestow this jewell also on my creature,
He would adore my gifts in stead of me,
And rest in Nature, not the God of Nature :
So both should losers be.

Yet let him keep the rest,
But keep them with repining restlesnesse :
Let him be rich and wearie, that at least,
If goodnesse leade him not, yet wearinesse
May tesse him to my breast.



BLEST Order, which in power dost so excell,
That with th' one hand thou liftest to the sky,
And with the other throwest down to hell
In thy just censures ; fain would I draw nigh ;
Fain put thee on, exchanging my lay sword
For that of th' holy word.

But thou art fire, sacred and hallow'd fire ;
And I but earth and clay : should I presume
To wear thy habit, the severe attire
My slender compositions might consume.
I am both foul and brittle, much unfit
To deal in holy Writ.

Yet have I often seen, by cunning hand
And force of fire, what curious things are made
Of wretched earth. Where once I scorn'd to stand,
That earth is fitted by the fire and trade
Of skilfull artists, for the boards of those
Who make the bravest shows.

But since those great ones, be they ne'er so great,
Come from the earth, from whence those vessels come ;
So that at once both feeder, dish, and meat,
Have one beginning and one finall summe :
I do not greatly wonder at the sight,
If earth in earth delight.

But th' holy men of God such vessels are,
As serve him up, who all the world commands.
When God vouchsafeth to become our fare,
Their hands convey him, who conveys their hands :
O what pure things, most pure must those things be,
Who bring my God to me !

Wherefore I dare not, I, put forth my hand
To hold the Ark, although it seem to shake
Through th' old sinnes and new doctrines of our land.
Onely, since God doth often vessels make
Of lowly matter for high uses meet,
I throw me at his feet.

There will I lie, untill my Maker seek
For some mean stuffe whereon to show his skill :
Then is my time. The distance of the meek
Doth flatter power. Lest good come short of ill
In praising might, the poore do by submission
What pride by opposition.



THE SEARCH.

WHITHER, O, whither art thou fled,
My Lord, my Love ?
My searches are my daily bread ;
Yet never prove.

O let not that of any thing :
 Let rather brasse,
Or steel, or mountains be thy ring,
 And I will passe.

Thy will such an intrenching is,
 As passeth thought :
To it all strength, all subtilties
 Are things of nought.

Thy will such a strange distance is,
 As that to it
East and West touch, the poles do kisse,
 And parallels meet.

Since then my grief must be as large
 As is thy space,
Thy distance from me ; see my charge,
 Lord, see my case.

O take these barres, these lengths away ;
 Turn, and restore me :
Be not Almightye, let me say,
 Against, but for me.

When thou dost turn, and wilt be neare ;
 What edge so keen,
What point so piercing can appeare
 To come between ?

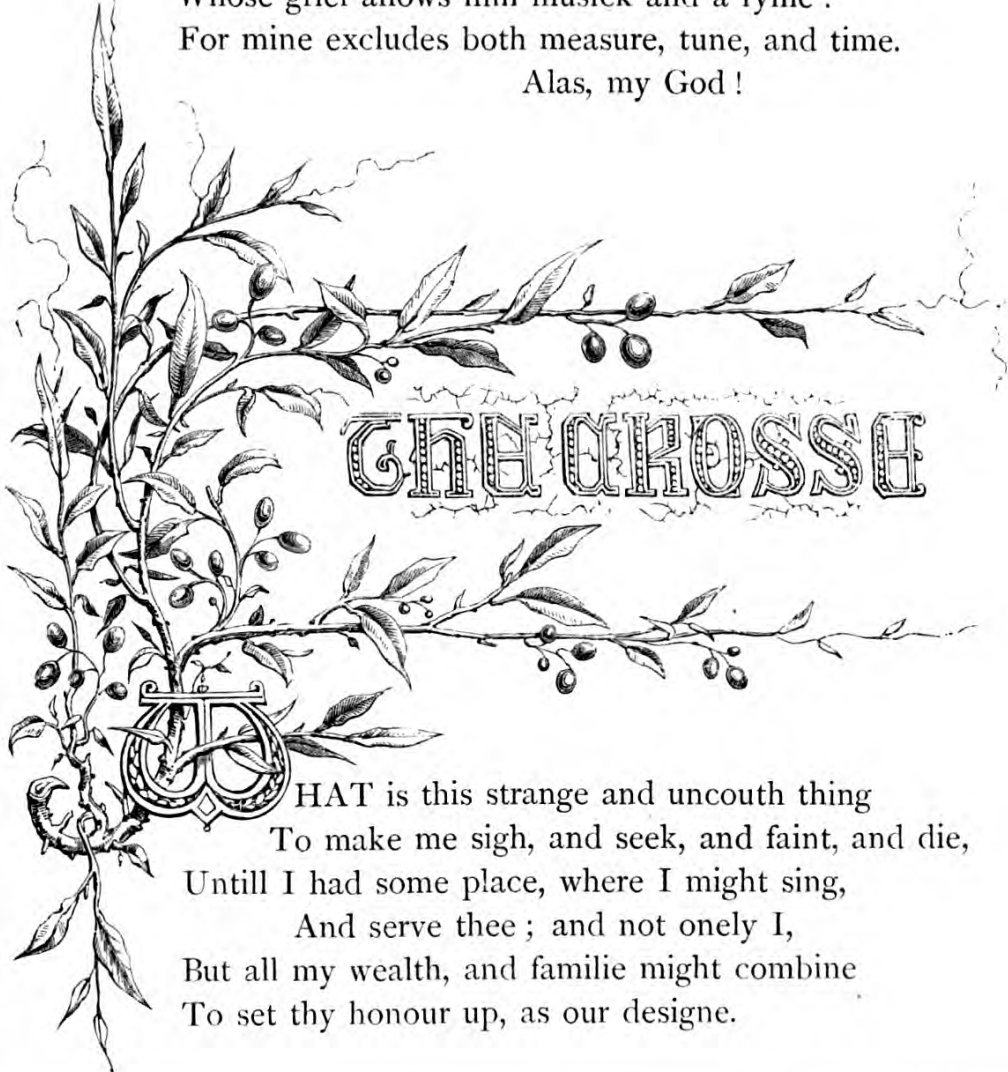
For as thy absence doth excell
 All distance known :
So doth thy nearnesse bear the bell,
 Making two one.



GRIEF.

O WHO will give me tears? Come all ye springs,
Dwell in my head and eyes: come, clouds, and rain:
My grief hath need of all the watry things,
That nature hath produc'd. Let ev'ry vein
Suck up a river to supply mine eyes,
My weary weeping eyes too drie for me,

Unlesse they get new conduits, new supplies,
To bear them out, and with my state agree.
What are two shallow foords, two little spouts
Of a lesse world? the greater is but small,
A narrow cupboard for my griefs and doubts,
Which want provision in the midst of all.
Verses, ye are too fine a thing, too wise
For my rough sorrows: cease, be dumbe and mute,
Give up your feet and running to mine eyes,
And keep your measures for some lovers lute,
Whose grief allows him musick and a ryme:
For mine excludes both measure, tune, and time.
Alas, my God!



WHAT is this strange and uncouth thing
To make me sigh, and seek, and faint, and die,
Untill I had some place, where I might sing,
And serve thee; and not onely I,
But all my wealth, and familie might combine
To set thy honour up, as our designe.

And then when after much delay,
 Much wrastling, many a combate, this deare end,
 So much desir'd, is giv'n, to take away
 My power to serve thee : to unbend
 All my abilities, my designes confound,
 And lay my threatnings bleeding on the ground.

One ague dwelleth in my bones,
 Another in my soul (the memorie
 What I would do for thee, if once my grones
 Could be allow'd for harmonie)
 I am in all a weak disabled thing,
 Save in the sight thereof, where strength doth sting.

Besides, things sort not to my will,
 Ev'n when my will doth studie thy renown :
 Thou turnest th' edge of all things on me still,
 Taking me up to throw me down :
 So that, ev'n when my hopes seem to be sped,
 I am to grief alive, to them as dead.

To have my aim, and yet to be
 Farther from it than when I bent my bow ;
 To make my hopes my torture, and the fee
 Of all my woes another wo,
 Is in the midst of delicates to need,
 And ev'n in Paradise to be a weed.

Ah my deare Father, ease my smart !
 These contrarieties crush me : these crosse actions
 Doe winde a rope about, and cut my heart :
 And yet since these thy contradictions
 Are properly a crosse felt by thy sonne
 With but foure words, my words, *Thy will be done.*



THE FLOWER.

HOW fresh, O Lord, how sweet and clean
Are thy returns ! ev'n as the flowers in spring ;
To which, besides their own demean,
The late-past frosts tributes of pleasure bring.
Grief melts away
Like snow in May,
As if there were no such cold thing.

Who would have thought my shrivel'd heart
 Could have recover'd greenesse? It was gone
 Quite under ground; as flowers depart
 To see their mother-root, when they have blown;
 Where they together
 All the hard weather,
 Dead to the world, keep house unknown.

These are thy wonders, Lord of power,
 Killing and quickning, bringing down to hell
 And up to heaven in an houre;
 Making a chiming of a passing-bell.
 We say amisse,
 This or that is:
 Thy word is all, if we could spell.

O that I once past changing were,
 Fast in thy Paradise, where no flower can wither!
 Many a spring I shoot up fair,
 Offring at heav'n, growing and groning thither:
 Nor doth my flower
 Want a spring-showre,
 My sinnes and I joining together.

But while I grow in a straight line,
 Still upwards bent, as if heav'n were mine own,
 Thy anger comes, and I decline:
 What frost to that? what pole is not the zone
 Where all things burn,
 When thou dost turn,
 And the least frown of thine is shown?

And now in age I bud again,
 After so many deaths I live and write;

I once more smell the dew and rain,
And relish versing : O my onely light,
It cannot be
That I am he,
On whom thy tempests fell all night.

These are thy wonders, Lord of love,
To make us see we are but flowers that glide :
Which then we once can finde and prove,
Thou hast a garden for us, where to bide.
Who would be more,
Swelling through store,
Forfeit their Paradise by their pride.

DOTAGE.

FALSE glozing pleasures, casks of happinesse,
Foolish night-fires, womens and childrens wishes,
Chases in Arras, gilded emptinesse,
Shadows well mounted, dreams in a career,
Embroider'd lyes, nothing between two dishes ;
These are the pleasures here.

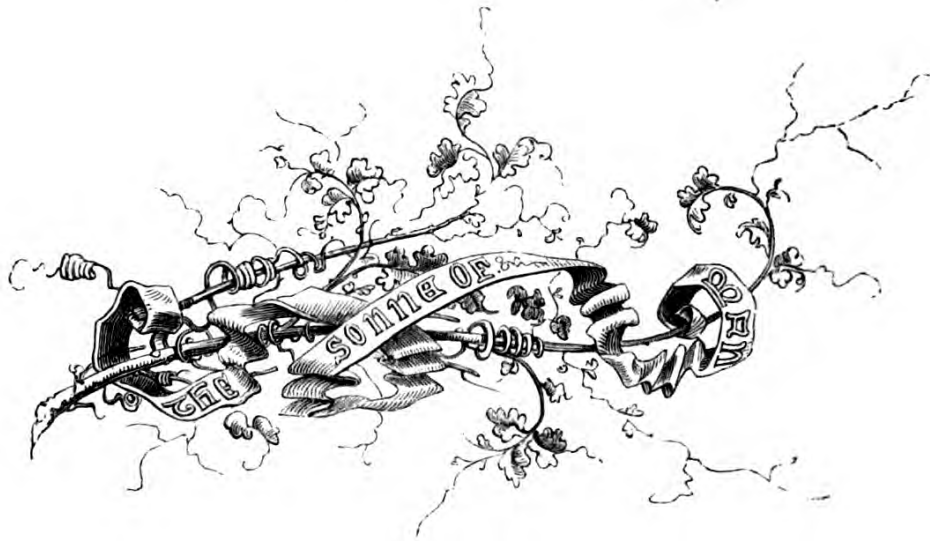
True earnest sorrows, rooted miseries,
Anguish in grain, vexations ripe and blown,
Sure-footed griefs, solid calamities,
Plain demonstrations, evident and cleare,
Fetching their proofs ev'n from the very bone ;
These are the sorrows here.

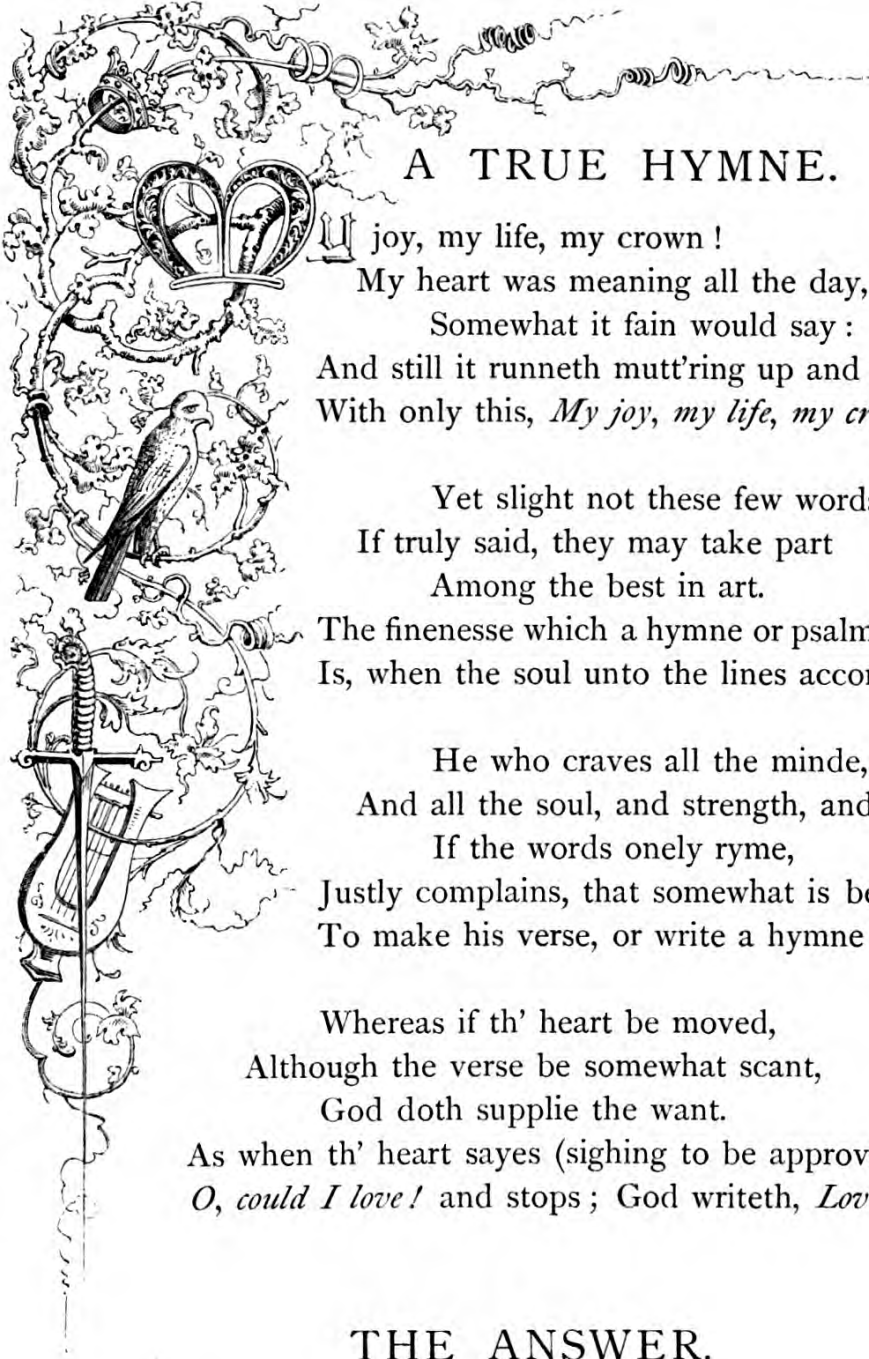
But oh the folly of distracted men,
Who griefs in earnest, joyes in jest pursue ;
Preferring, like brute beasts, a loathsome den

Before a court, ev'n that above so cleare,
 Where are no sorrows, but delights more true
 Then miseries are here !

THE SONNE.

LET forrain nations of their language boast,
 What fine varietie each tongue affords :
 I like our language, as our men and coast ;
 Who cannot dresse it well, want wit, not words.
 How neatly do we give one onely name
 To parents issue and the sunnes bright starre !
 A sonne is light and fruit ; a fruitfull flame
 Chasing the fathers dimnesse, carri'd far
 From the first man in th' East, to fresh and new
 Western discov'ries of posteritie.
 So in one word our Lords humilitie
 We turn upon him in a sense most true :
 For what Christ once in humblenesse began,
 We him in glorie call, *The Sonne of Man.*





A TRUE HYMNE.

Joy, my life, my crown !
 My heart was meaning all the day,
 Somewhat it fain would say :
 And still it runneth mutt'ring up and down
 With only this, *My joy, my life, my crown.*

Yet slight not these few words ;
 If truly said, they may take part
 Among the best in art.
 The finesse which a hymne or psalme affords,
 Is, when the soul unto the lines accords.

He who craves all the minde,
 And all the soul, and strength, and time,
 If the words onely ryme,
 Justly complains, that somewhat is behinde
 To make his verse, or write a hymne in kinde.

Whereas if th' heart be moved,
 Although the verse be somewhat scant,
 God doth supplie the want.
 As when th' heart sayes (sighing to be approved)
O, could I love ! and stops ; God writeth, *Loved.*

THE ANSWER.

MY comforts drop and melt away like snow :
 I shake my head, and all the thoughts and ends,

Which my fierce youth did bandie, fall and flow
 Like leaves about me, or like summer friends,
 Flyes of estates and sunne-shine. But to all,
 Who think me eager, hot, and undertaking,
 But in my prosecutions slack and small ;
 As a young exhalation, newly waking,
 Scorns his first bed of dirt, and means the sky ;
 But cooling by the way, grows pursie and slow,
 And settling to a cloud, doth live and die
 In that dark state of tears : to all, that so
 Show me, and set me, I have one reply,
 Which they that know the rest, know more then I.

A DIALOGUE-ANTHEM.

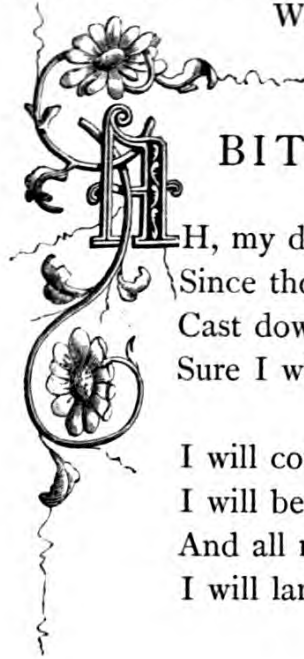
Christian, Death.

Chr. ALAS, poore death ! where is thy glorie ?
 Where is thy famous force, thy ancient sting ?
Dea. *Alas, poore mortall, void of storie,*
Go spell and reade how I have kill'd thy King.
Chr. Poore death ! and who was hurt thereby ?
 Thy curse being laid on him makes thee accurst.
Dea. *Let losers talk, yet thou shalt die ;*
These arms shall crush thee. *Chr.* Spare not, do
 thy worst.
 I shall be one day better then before :
 Thou so much worse, that thou shalt be no more.

THE WATER-COURSE.

THOU who dost dwell and linger here below,
 Since the condition of this world is frail,

Thus we prevent the last great day,
 And judge our selves. That light which sin and passion
 Did before dimme and choke,
 When once those snuffes are ta'ne away,
 Shines bright and cleare, ev'n unto condemnation,
 Without excuse or cloak.



BITTER-SWEET.

H, my deare angrie Lord,
 Since thou dost love, yet strike ;
 Cast down, yet help afford ;
 Sure I will do the like.

I will complain, yet praise ;
 I will bewail, approve :
 And all my sowre-sweet dayes
 I will lament, and love.

THE GLANCE.

WHEN first thy sweet and gracious eye
 Vouchsaf'd ev'n in the midst of youth and night
 To look upon me, who before did lie
 Weltring in sinne ;
 I felt a sugred strange delight,
 Passing all cordials made by any art,
 Bedew, embalme, and overrunne my heart,
 And take it in.

Since that time many a bitter storm
 My soul hath felt, ev'n able to destroy,

Had the malicious and ill-meaning harm
His swing and sway :
But still thy sweet originall joy,
Sprung from thine eye, did work within my soul,
And surging griefs, when they grew bold, controll,
And got the day.

If thy first glance so powerfull be,
A mirth but open'd, and seal'd up again ;
What wonders shall we feel, when we shall see
Thy full-ey'd love !
When thou shalt look us out of pain,
And one aspect of thine spend in delight
More then a thousand sunnes disburse in light,
In heav'n above.



THE TWENTY-THIRD PSALME.

THE God of love my shepherd is,
And he that doth me feed :
While he is mine, and I am his,
What can I want or need ?

He leads me to the tender grasse,
 Where I both feed and rest ;
 Then to the streams that gently passe :
 In both I have the best.

Or if I stray, he doth convert,
 And bring my minde in frame :
 And all this not for my desert,
 But for his holy name.

Yea, in deaths shadie black abode
 Well may I walk, not fear :
 For thou art with me, and thy rod
 To guide, thy staffe to bear.

Nay, thou dost make me sit and dine,
 Ev'n in my enemies sight ;
 My head with oyl, my cup with wine
 Runnes over day and night.

Surely thy sweet and wondrous love
 Shall measure all my dayes ;
 And as it never shall remove,
 So neither shall my praise.

MARIE MAGDALENE.

WHEN blessed Marie wip'd her Saviours feet,
 (Whose precepts she had trampled on before)
 And wore them for a jewell on her head,
 Shewing his steps should be the street,
 Wherein she thenceforth evermore
 With pensive humblenesse would live and tread :



She being stain'd herself, why did she strive
To make him clean, who could not be defil'd ?
Why kept she not her tears for her own faults,
And not his feet ? Though we could dive
In tears like seas, our sinnes are pil'd
Deeper then they, in words, and works, and thoughts.

Deare soul, she knew who did vouchsafe and deigne
 To bear her filth ; and that her sinnes did dash
 Ev'n God himself : wherefore she was not loth,
 As she had brought wherewith to stain,
 So to bring in wherewith to wash :
 And yet in washing one, she washed both.



AARON.

HOLINESSE on the head,
 Light and perfections on the breast,
 Harmonious bells below, raising the dead
 To leade them unto life and rest.
 Thus are true Aarons drest.

Profanenesse in my head,
 Defects and darknesse in my breast,
 A noise of passions ringing me for dead
 Unto a place where is no rest :
 Poore priest thus am I drest.

Onely another head
 I have, another heart and breast,
 Another musick, making live not dead,
 Without whom I could have no rest :
 In him I am well drest.

Christ is my onely head
 My alone onely heart and breast,

My onely musick, striking me ev'n dead ;
That to the old man I may rest,
And be in him new drest.

So holy in my head,
Perfect and light in my deare breast,
My doctrine tun'd by Christ, (who is not dead,
But lives in me while I do rest)
Come, people ; Aaron's drest.



2 COR. ii.

HOW sweetly doth *My Master* sound ! *My Master* !
As Amber-greese leaves a rich scent
Unto the taster :
So do these words a sweet content,
An orientall fragrancie, *My Master*.

With these all day I do perfume my minde,
My mind ev'n thrust into them both ;
That I might finde
What cordialls make this curious broth,
This broth of smells, that feeds and fats my minde.

My Master, shall I speak? O that to thee
My Servant were a little so,
 As flesh may be ;
 That these two words might creep and grow
 To some degree of spicinesse to thee !

Then should the Pomander, which was before
 A speaking sweet, mend by reflection,
 And tell me more :
 For pardon of my imperfection
 Would warm and work it sweeter than before.

For when *My Master*, which alone is sweet,
 And ev'n in my unworthinesse pleasing,
 Shall call and meet,
My Servant, as thee not displeasing,
 That call is but the breathing of the sweet.

This breathing would with gains by sweetning me
 (As sweet things traffick when they meet)
 Return to thee.
 And so this new commerce and sweet
 Should all my life employ, and busie me.

THE FOIL.

If we could see below
 The sphere of vertue, and each shining grace,
 As plainly as that above doth show ;
 This were the better skie, the brighter place.

God hath made starres the foil
 To set off vertues ; griefs to set off sinning :

Yet in this wretched world we toil,
As if grief were not foul, nor vertue winning.



THE FORERUNNERS.

THE harbingers are come. See, see their mark ;
White is their colour, and behold my head.
But must they have my brain ? must they dispart

Those sparkling notions, which therein were bred?
 Must dulnesse turn me to a clod?
 Yet have they left me, *Thou art still my God.*

Good men ye be, to leave me my best room,
 Ev'n all my heart, and what is lodged there:
 I passe not, I, what of the rest become,
 So, *Thou art still my God*, be out of fear.
 He will be pleased with that dittie;
 And if I please him, I write fine and wittie.

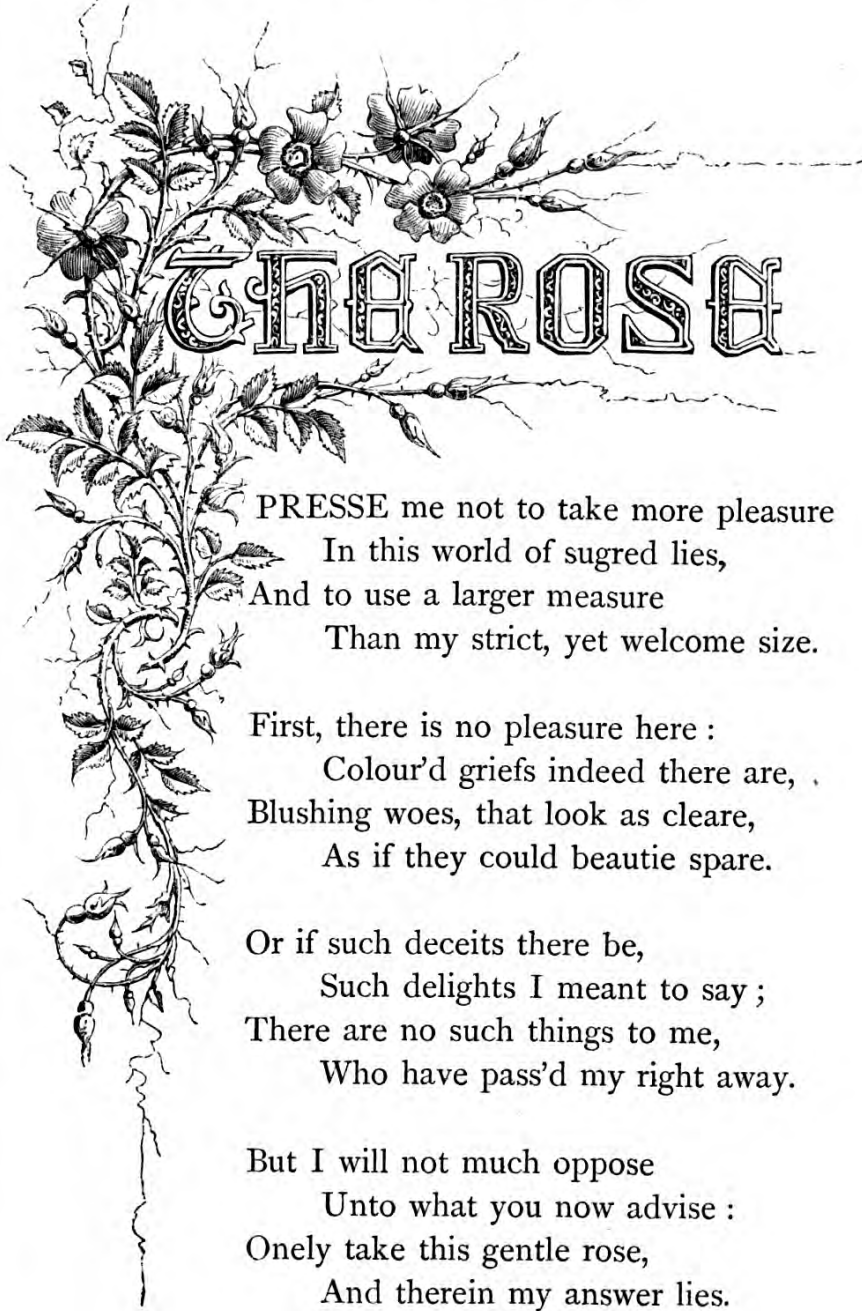
Farewell sweet phrases, lovely metaphors:
 But will ye leave me thus? when ye before
 Of stews and brothels onely knew the doores,
 Then did I wash you with my tears, and more,
 Brought you to Church well drest and clad:
 My God must have my best, ev'n all I had.

Lovely enchanting language, sugar-cane,
 Hony of roses, whither wilt thou flie?
 Hath some fond lover tic'd thee to thy bane?
 And wilt thou leave the Church, and love a stie?
 Fie, thou wilt soil thy broider'd coat,
 And hurt thyself, and him that sings the note.

Let foolish lovers, if they will love dung,
 With canvas, not with arras clothe their shame:
 Let follie speak in her own native tongue.
 True beautie dwells on high: ours is a flame
 But borrow'd thence to light us thither.
 Beautie and beauteous words should go together.

Yet if you go, I passe not; take your way:
 For, *Thou art still my God*, is all that ye

Perhaps with more embellishment can say,
Go birds of spring : let winter have his fee ;
Let a bleak palenesse chalk the doore,
So all within be livelier then before.



PRESSE me not to take more pleasure
In this world of sugred lies,
And to use a larger measure
Than my strict, yet welcome size.

First, there is no pleasure here :
Colour'd griefs indeed there are,
Blushing woes, that look as cleare,
As if they could beautie spare.

Or if such deceits there be,
Such delights I meant to say ;
There are no such things to me,
Who have pass'd my right away.

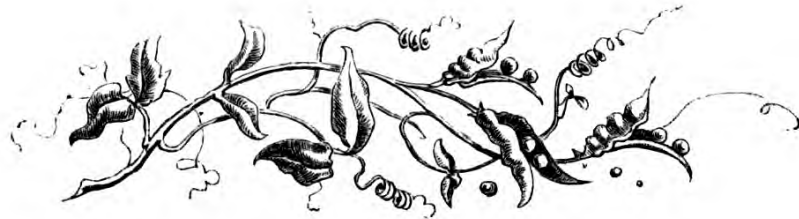
But I will not much oppose
Unto what you now advise :
Onely take this gentle rose,
And therein my answer lies.

What is fairer then a rose ?
What is sweeter ? yet it purgeth.
Purgings enmitie disclose,
Enmitie forbearance urgeth.

If then all that worldlings prize
Be contracted to a rose ;
Sweetly there indeed it lies,
But it biteth in the close.

So this flower doth judge and sentence
Worldly joyes to be a scourge :
For they all produce repentance,
And repentance is a purge.

But I health, not physick choose :
Onely though I you oppose,
Say that fairly I refuse,
For my answer is a rose.



DISCIPLINE.

THROW away thy rod,
Throw away thy wrath :
O my God,
Take the gentle path.



THE INVITATION.

COME ye hither all, whose taste
 Is your waste ;
 Save your cost, and mend your fare.
 God is here prepar'd and drest,
 And the feast,
 God, in whom all dainties are.

Come ye hither all, whom wine
 Doth define,
 Naming you not to your good :
 Weep what ye have drunk amisse,
 And drink this,
 Which before ye drink is bloud.

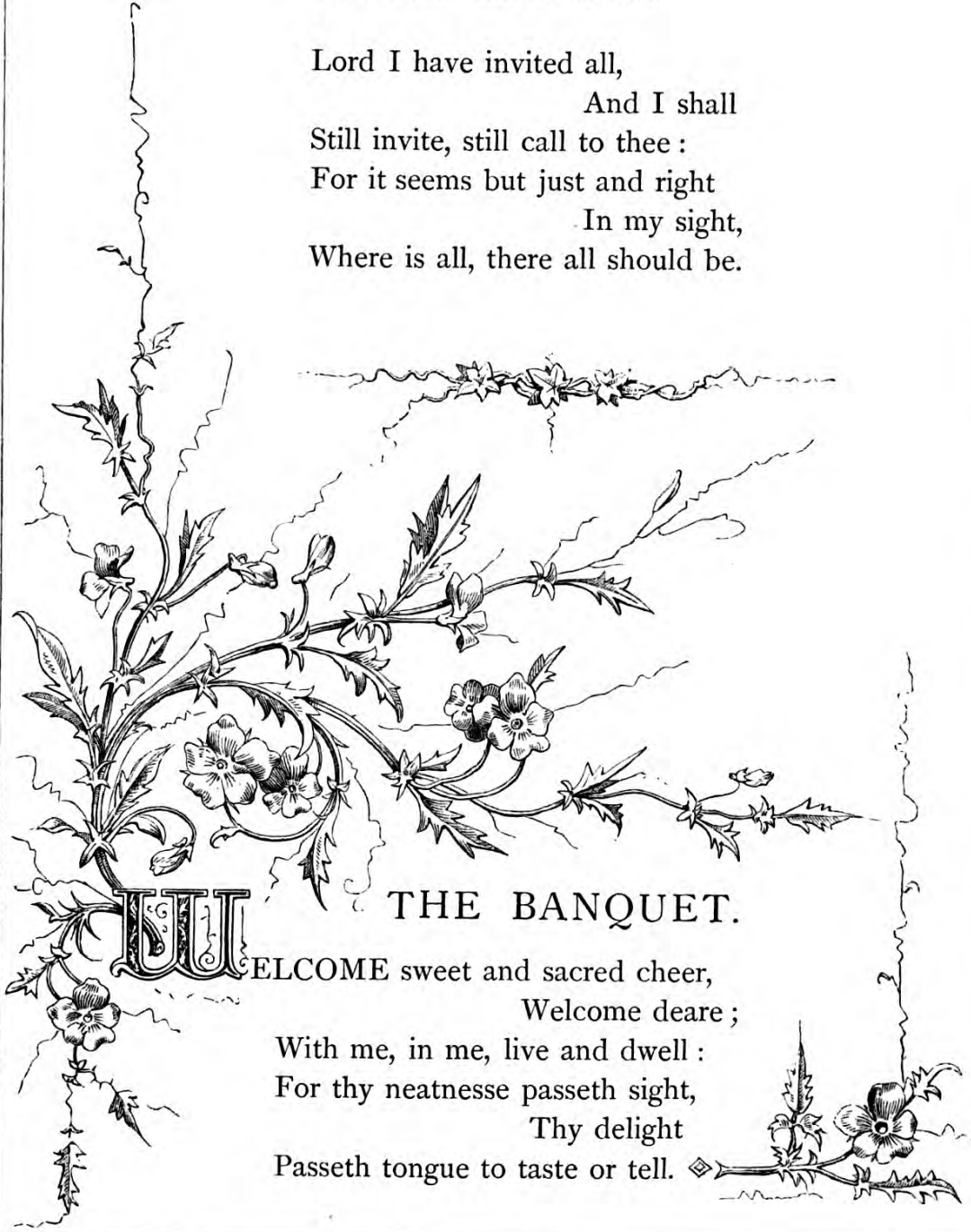
Come ye hither all, whom pain
 Doth arraigne,
 Bringing all your sinnes to sight :
 Taste and fear not : God is here
 In this cheer,
 And on sinne doth cast the fright.

Come ye hither all, whom joy
 Doth destroy,
 While ye graze without your bounds :
 Here is joy that drowneth quite
 Your delight,
 As a floud the lower grounds.

Come ye hither all, whose love
 Is your dove,

And exalts you to the skie :
Here is love, which, having breath
Ev'n in death,
After death can never die.

Lord I have invited all,
And I shall
Still invite, still call to thee :
For it seems but just and right
In my sight,
Where is all, there all should be.



WELCOME sweet and sacred cheer,
Welcome deare ;
With me, in me, live and dwell :
For thy neatnesse passeth sight,
Thy delight
Passeth tongue to taste or tell.

THE BANQUET.

Having rais'd me to look up,
 In a cup
Sweetly he doth meet my taste.
But I still being low and short,
 Farre from court,
Wine becomes a wing at last.

For with it alone I flie
 To the skie :
Where I wipe mine eyes, and see
What I seek, for what I sue ;
 Him I view
Who hath done so much for me.

Let the wonder of this pitie
 Be my dittie,
And take up my lines and life :
Hearken under pain of death,
 Hands and breath,
Strive in this, and love the strife.

THE POSIE.

LET wits contest,
And with their words and posies windows fill :
Lesse than the least
Of all thy mercies, is my posie still.

This on my ring,
This by my picture, in my book I write ;
Whether I sing,
Or say, or dictate, this is my delight.

Invention rest ;
 Comparisons go play ; wit use thy will :
Lesse than the least
Of all Gods mercies, is my posie still.

A PARODIE.

SOULS joy, when thou art gone,
 And I alone,
 Which cannot be,
 Because thou dost abide with me,
 And I depend on thee ;

Yet when thou dost suppress
 The cheerfulness
 Of thy abode,
 And in my powers not stirre abroad,
 But leave me to my load :

O what a damp and shade
 Doth me invade !
 No stormie night
 Can so afflict or so affright
 As thy eclipsed light.

Ah Lord ! do not withdraw,
 Lest want of aw
 Make sinne appeare ;
 And when thou dost but shine lesse cleare,
 Say, that thou art not here.

And then what life I have,
 While Sinne doth rave,
 And falsly boast,

That I may seek, but thou art lost ;
Thou and alone thou know'st.

O what a deadly cold
Doth me infold !
I half beleave,
That Sinne says true : but while I grieve,
Thou com'st and dost relieve.

THE ELIXER.



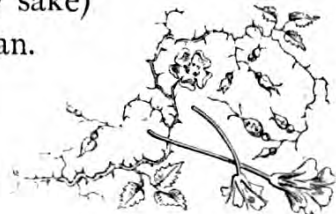
TEACH me, my God and King,
In all things thee to see,
And what I do in any thing,
To do it as for thee :

Not rudely, as a beast,
To runne into an action ;
But still to make thee prepossest,
And give it his perfection.

A man that looks on glasse,
On it may stay his eye ;
Or if he pleaseth, through it passe,
And then the heav'n espie.

All may of thee partake :
Nothing can be so mean,
Which with his tincture (for thy sake)
Will not grow bright and clean.

A servant with this clause
Makes drudgerie divine :



Who sweeps a room, as for thy laws,
 Makes that and th' action fine.

This is the famous stone
 That turneth all to gold :
 For that which God doth touch and own
 Cannot for lesse be told.

A WREATH.

A WREATHED garland of deserved praise,
 Of praise deserved, unto thee I give,
 I give to thee, who knowest all my wayes,
 My crooked winding wayes, wherein I live,
 Wherein I die, not live ; for life is straight,
 Straight as a line, and ever tends to thee,
 To thee, who art more farre above deceit,
 Than deceit seems above simplicitie.
 Give me simplicitie, that I may live,
 So live and like, that I may know thy wayes,
 Know them and practise them : then shall I give
 For this poore wreath, give thee a crown of praise.

DEATH.

DEATH, thou wast once an uncouth hideous thing,
 Nothing but bones,
 The sad effect of sadder grones :
 Thy mouth was open, but thou couldst not sing.

For we consider'd thee as at some six
 Or ten yeares hence,
 After the losse of life and sense,
 Flesh being turn'd to dust, and bones to sticks.

We lookt on this side of thee, shooting short ;
Where we did finde
The shells of fledge souls left behinde,
Dry dust, which sheds no tears, but may extort.



But since our Saviours death did put some bloud
Into thy face ;
Thou art grown fair and full of grace,
Much in request, much sought for, as a good.

For we do now behold thee gay and glad,
As at dooms-day ;
When souls shall wear their new aray,
And all thy bones with beautie shall be clad.

Therefore we can go die as sleep, and trust
 Half that we have
 Unto an honest faithfull grave ;
 Making our pillows either down, or dust.

DOOMS - DAY

COME away,
 Make no delay.
 Summon all the dust to rise.
 Till it stirre, and rubbe the eyes :
 While this member jogs the other.
 Each one whispring, *Live you, brother !*

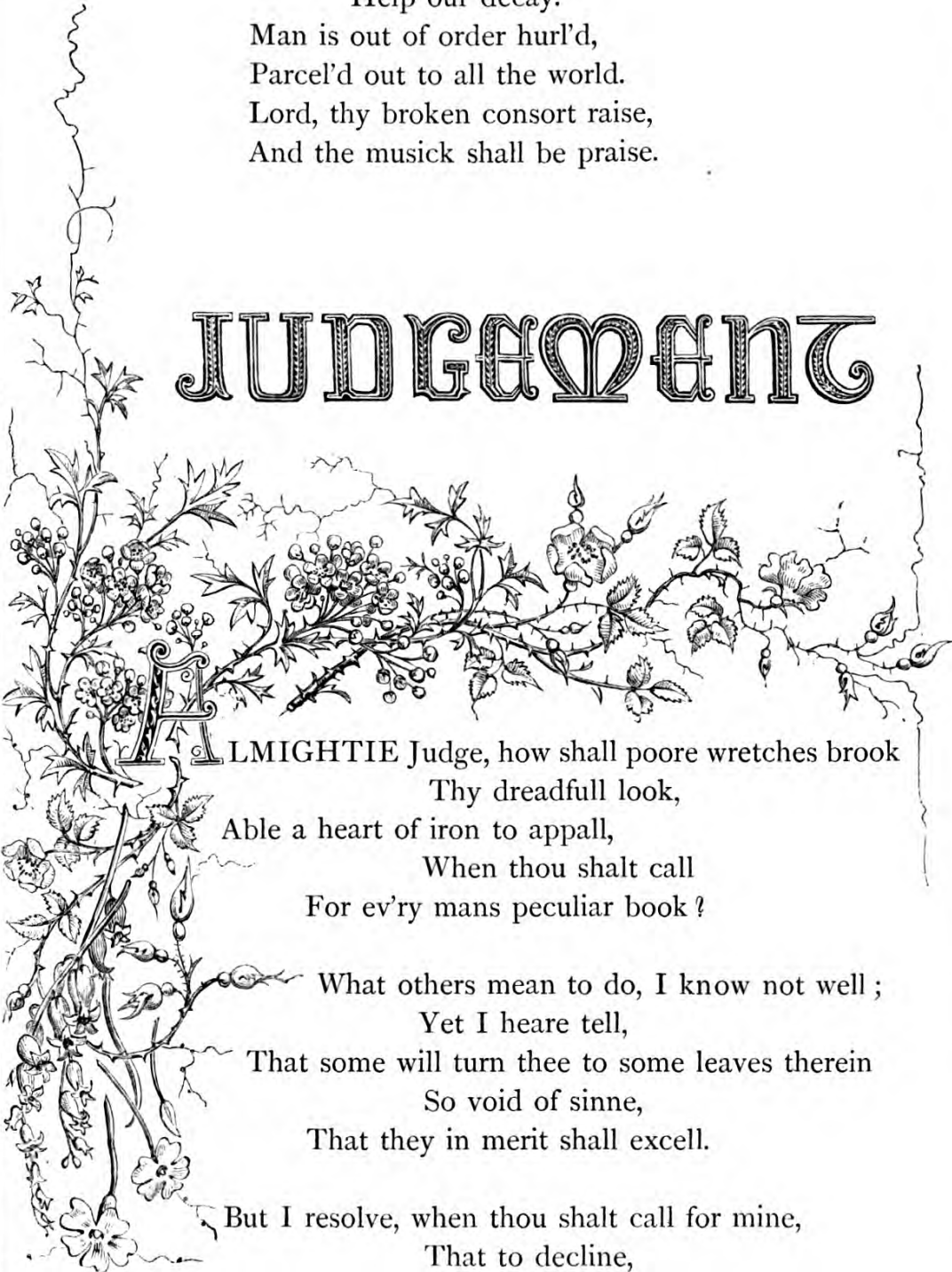
Come away,
 Make this the day.
 Dust, alas, no musick feels,
 But thy trumpet : then it kneels,
 As peculiar notes and strains
 Cure Tarantulaes raging pains.

Come away,
 O make no stay !
 Let the graves make their confession,
 Lest at length they plead possession :
 Fleshes stubbornesse may have
 Read that lesson to the grave.

Come away,
 Thy flock doth stray.
 Some to the windes their bodie lend,
 And in them may drown a friend :
 Some in noisome vapours grow
 To a plague and publick wo.

Come away,
Help our decay.
Man is out of order hurl'd,
Parcel'd out to all the world.
Lord, thy broken consort raise,
And the musick shall be praise.

JUDGEMENT



ALMIGHTIE Judge, how shall poore wretches brook
Thy dreadfull look,
Able a heart of iron to appall,
When thou shalt call
For ev'ry mans peculiar book ?

What others mean to do, I know not well ;
Yet I heare tell,
That some will turn thee to some leaves therein
So void of sinne,
That they in merit shall excell.

But I resolve, when thou shalt call for mine,
That to decline,

And thrust a Testament into thy hand :
 Let that be scann'd.
 There thou shalt finde my faults are thine.



HEAVEN

WHO will show me those delights on high ?

Echo.

I.

Thou Echo, thou art mortall, all men know.

Echo.

No.

Wert thou not born among the trees and leaves ?

Echo.

Leaves.

And are there any leaves, that still abide ?

Echo.

Bide.

What leaves are they ? impart the matter wholly.

Echo.

Holy.

Are holy leaves the echo then of blisse ?

Echo.

Yes.

Then tell me, what is that supreme delight ?

Echo.

Light.

Light to the minde : what shall the will enjoy ?

Echo.

Joy.

But are there cares and businesse with the pleasure ?

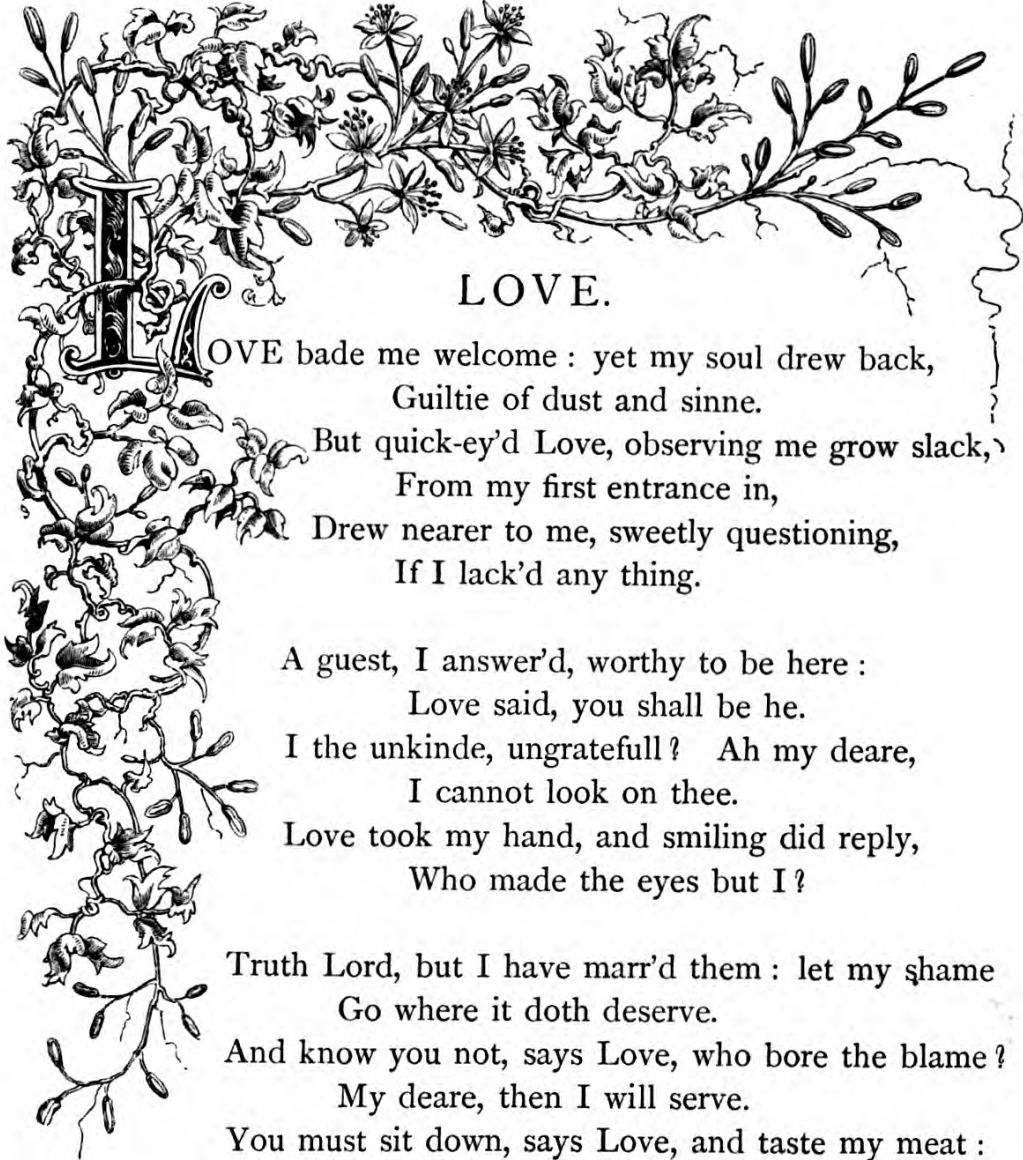
Echo.

Leisure.

Light, joy, and leisure ; but shall they persever ?

Echo.

Ever.



LOVE.


LOVE bade me welcome : yet my soul drew back,
Guilty of dust and sinne.
But quick-ey'd Love, observing me grow slack,
From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning,
If I lack'd any thing.

A guest, I answer'd, worthy to be here :
Love said, you shall be he.
I the unkinde, ungratefull ? Ah my deare,
I cannot look on thee.
Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,
Who made the eyes but I ?


Truth Lord, but I have marr'd them : let my shame
Go where it doth deserve.
And know you not, says Love, who bore the blame ?
My deare, then I will serve.
You must sit down, says Love, and taste my meat :
So I did sit and eat.

FINIS.

*Glorie be to God on high, and on earth peace,
good will towards men.*



The Church Militant



ALMIGHTIE LORD, who from thy glorious throne
 Seest and rulest all things ev'n as one :
 The smallest ant or atome knows thy power,
 Known also to each minute of an hour :
 Much more do Common-weals acknowledge thee,
 And wrap their policies in thy decree,
 Complying with thy counsels, doing nought
 Which doth not meet with an eternall thought.
 But above all, thy Church and Spouse doth prove
 Not the decrees of power; but bands of love.
 Early didst thou arise to plant this vine,
 Which might the more indeare it to be thine.
 Spices come from the East ; so did thy Spouse,
 Trimme as the light, sweet as the laden boughs
 Of *Noahs* shadie vine, chaste as the dove,
 Prepar'd and fitted to receive thy love.
 The course was westward, that the sunne might light
 As well our understanding as our sight.
 Where th' Ark did rest, there *Abraham* began
 To bring the other Ark from *Canaan*.
Moses pursu'd this : but King *Solomon*
 Finish'd and fixt the old religion.
 When it grew loose, the Jews did hope in vain
 By nailing Christ to fasten it again.
 But to the Gentiles he bore crosse and all,
 Rending with earthquakes the partition-wall.
 Onely whereas the Ark in glorie shone,
 Now with the crosse, as with a staffe, alone,
 Religion, like a pilgrime, westward bent,
 Knocking at all doores, ever as she went.

Yet as the sunne, though forward be his flight,
Listens behinde him, and allows some light,
Till all depart : so went the Church her way,
Letting, while one foot stept, the other stay
Among the eastern nations for a time,
Till both removed to the western clime.
To *Egypt* first she came, where they did prove
Wonders of anger once, but now of love.
The ten Commandments there did flourish more
Than the ten bitter plagues had done before.
Holy *Macarius* and great *Anthonie*
Made *Pharaoh Moses*, changing th' historie.
Goshen was darknesse, *Egypt* full of lights,
Nilus for monsters brought forth Israelites.
Such power hath mightie Baptisme to produce,
For things misshapen, things of highest use.
How deare to me, O God, thy counsels are !
Who may with thee compare ?
Religion thence fled into *Greece*, where arts
Gave her the highest place in all mens hearts.
Learning was pos'd, Philosophie was set,
Sophisters taken in a fishers net.
Plato and *Aristotle* were at a losse,
And wheel'd about again to spell *Christ-Crosse*.
Prayers chas'd syllogismes into their den,
And *Ergo* was transform'd into *Amen*.
Though *Greece* took horse as soon as *Egypt* did,
And *Rome* as both ; yet *Egypt* faster rid,
And spent her period and prefixed time
Before the other. *Greece* being past her prime,
Religion went to *Rome*, subduing those,
Who, that they might subdue, made all their foes.
The Warriar his deere skarres no more resounds,
But seems to yeeld Christ hath the greater wounds ;

Wounds willingly endur'd to work his blisse,
Who by an ambush lost his Paradise.
The great heart stoops, and taketh from the dust
A sad repentance, not the spoils of lust :
Quitting his spear, lest it should pierce again
Him in his members, who for him was slain.
The Shepherds hook grew to a scepter here,
Giving new names and numbers to the yeare.
But th' Empire dwelt in *Greece*, to comfort them,
Who were cut short in *Alexanders* stemme.
In both of these Prowesse and Arts did tame
And tune mens hearts against the Gospel came :
Which using, and not fearing skill in th' one,
Or strength in th' other, did erect her throne,
Many a rent and struggling th' Empire knew,
(As dying things are wont), untill it flew
At length to *Germanie*, still westward bending,
And there the Churches festivall attending :
That as before Empire and Arts made way,
(For no lesse Harbingers would serve then they)
So they might still, and point us out the place,
Where first the Church should raise her down-cast face.
Strength levels grounds, Art makes a garden there ;
Then showres Religion, and makes all to bear.
Spain in the Empire shar'd with *Germanie*,
But *England* in the higher victorie ;
Giving the Church a crown to keep her state,
And not go lesse than she had done of late.
Constantines British line meant this of old,
And did this mysterie wrap up and fold
Within a sheet of paper, which was rent
From times great Chronicle, and hither sent.
Thus both the Church and sunne together ran
Unto the farthest old meridian.

How deare to me, O God, thy counsels are!

Who may with thee compare?

Much about one and the same time and place,
Both where and when the Church began her race,
Sinne did set out of Eastern *Babylon*,
And travell'd westward also : journeying on
He chid the Church away, where e're he came,
Breaking her peace, and tainting her good name.
At first he got to *Egypt*, and did sow
Gardens of gods, which ev'ry yeare did grow,
Fresh and fine deities. They were at great cost,
Who for a god clearely a sallet lost.
Ah, what a thing is man devoid of grace,
Adoring garlick with an humble face,
Begging his food of that which he may eat,
Starving the while he worshipping his meat !
Who makes a root his god, how low is he,
If God and man be sever'd infinitely !
What wretchednesse can give him any room,
Whose house is foul, while he adores his broom ?
None will beleeve this now, though money be
In us the same transplanted foolerie.
Thus Sinne in *Egypt* sneaked for a while ;
His highest was an ox or crocodile,
And such poore game. Thence he to Greece doth passe,
And being craftier much than Goodnesse was,
He left behinde him garrisons of sinnes,
To make good that which ev'ry day he winnes.
Here Sinne took heart, and for a garden-bed
Rich shrines and oracles he purchased :
He grew a gallant, and would needs foretell
As well what should befall, as what befell.
Nay, he became a poet, and would serve
His pills of sublimate in that conserve.

The world came both with hands and purses full
 To this great lotterie, and all would pull.
 But all was glorious cheating, brave deceit,
 Where some poore truths were shuffled for a bait
 To credit him, and to discredit those,
 Who after him should braver truths disclose.
 From *Greece* he went to *Rome*: and as before
 He was a God, now he's an Emperour.
Nero and others lodg'd him bravely there,
 Put him in trust to rule the Romane sphere.
 Glorie was his chief instrument of old :
 Pleasure succeeded straight, when that grew cold :
 Which soon was blown to such a mightie flame,
 That though our Saviour did destroy the game,
 Disparking oracles, and all their treasure,
 Setting affliction to encounter pleasure ;
 Yet did a rogue with hope of carnall joy,
 Cheat the most subtill nations. Who so coy,
 So trimme, as *Greece* and *Egypt*? yet their hearts
 Are given over, for their curious arts,
 To such Mahometan stupidities,
 As the old heathen would deem prodigies.
How deare to me, O God, thy counsels are!
Who may with thee compare?
 Onely the West and *Rome* do keep them free
 From this contagious infidelitie.
 And this is all the Rock, whereof they boast,
 As *Rome* will one day finde unto her cost.
 Sinne being not able to extirpate quite
 The Churches here, bravely resolv'd one night
 To be a Church-man too, and wear a Mitre :
 The old debauched ruffian would turn writer.
 I saw him in his studie, where he sate
 Busie in controversies sprung of late.

A gown and pen became him wondrous well :
His grave aspect had more of heav'n then hell :
Onely there was a handsome picture by,
To which he lent a corner of his eye.
As sinne in *Greece* a Prophet was before,
And in old *Rome* a mightie Emperour ;
So now being Priest he plainly did professe
To make a jest of Christs three offices :
The rather since his scatter'd jugglings were
United now in one both time and sphere.
From *Egypt* he took pettie deities,
From *Greece* oracular infallibilities,
And from old *Rome* the libertie of pleasure,
By free dispensings of the Churches treasure.
Then in memoriall of his ancient throne,
He did surname his palace, *Babylon*.
Yet that he might the better gain all nations,
And make that name good by their transmigrations ;
From all these places, but at divers times,
He took fine vizards to conceal his crimes :
From *Egypt* Anchorisme and retirednesse,
Learning from *Greece*, from old *Rome* stateliness ;
And blending these, he carri'd all mens eyes,
While truth sat by, counting his victories :
Whereby he grew apace and scorned to use
Such force as once did captivate the Jews ;
But did bewitch, and finelly work each nation
Into a voluntarie transmigration.
All poste to *Rome*: Princes submit their necks
Either t' his publick foot or private tricks.
It did not fit his gravitie to stirre,
Nor his long journey, nor his gout and furre :
Therefore he sent out able ministers,
Statesmen within, without doores cloisterers ;

Who without spear, or sword, or other drumme,
 Than what was in their tongue, did overcome ;
 And having conquer'd, did so strangely rule,
 That the whole world did seem but the Popes mule.
 As new and old *Rome* did one Empire twist ;
 So both together are one Antichrist ;
 Yet with two faces, as their *Janus* was,
 Being in this their old crakt looking-glasse.
How deare to me, O God, thy counsels are !
Who may with thee compare ?
 Thus Sinne triumphs in Western *Babylon* ;
 Yet not as Sinne, but as Religion.
 Of his two thrones he made the latter best,
 And to defray his journey from the east.
 Old and new *Babylon* are to hell and night,
 As is the moon and sunne to heav'n and light.
 When th' one did set, the other did take place,
 Confronting equally the law and grace.
 They are hells land-marks, Satans double crest :
 They are Sinnes nipples, feeding the east and west.
 But as in vice the copie still exceeds
 The pattern, but not so in vertuous deeds ;
 So though Sinne made his latter seat the better,
 The latter Church is to the first a debter.
 The second temple could not reach the first :
 And the late reformation never durst
 Compare with ancient times and purer yeares ;
 But in the Jews and us deserveth tears.
 Nay, it shall ev'ry yeare decrease and fade ;
 Till such a darknesse do the world invade
 At Christs last coming, as his first did finde :
 Yet must there such proportions be assign'd
 To these diminishings, as is between
 The spacious world and *Jurie* to be seen.

Religion stands on tip-toe in our land,
Readie to passe to the *American* strand.
When height of malice, and prodigious lusts,
Impudent sinning, witchcrafts, and distrusts,
(The marks of future bane,) shall fill our cup
Unto the brimme, and make our measure up ;
When *Sein* shall swallow *Tiber*, and the *Thames*
By letting in them both, pollutes her streams :
When *Italie* of us shall have her will,
And all her calendar of sinnes fulfill ;
Whereby one may foretell, what sinnes next yeare
Shall both in *France* and *England* domineer :
Then shall Religion to *America* flee :
They have their times of Gospel, ev'n as we.
My God, thou dost prepare for them a way,
By carrying first their gold from them away :
For gold and grace did never yet agree :
Religion alwaies sides with povertie.
We think we rob them, but we think amisse :
We are more poore, and they more rich by this.
Thou wilt revenge their quarrell, making grace
To pay our debts, and leave our ancient place
To go to them, while that, which now their nation
But lends to us, shall be our desolation.
Yet as the Church shall thither westward flie,
So Sinne shall trace and dog her instantly :
They have their period also and set times
Both for their vertuous actions and their crimes.
And where of old the Empire and the Arts
Usher'd the Gospel ever in mens hearts,
Spain hath done one ; when Arts perform the other,
The Church shall come, and Sinne the Church shall smother :
That when they have accomplished the round,
And met in th' east their first and ancient sound,

Judgement may meet them both, and search them round.
 Thus do both lights, as well in Church as Sunne,
 Light one another, and together runne.
 Thus also Sinne and Darknesse follow still
 The Church and Sunne with all their power and skill.
 But as the Sunne still goes both west and east :
 So also did the Church by going west
 Still eastward go ; because it drew more neare
 To time and place, where judgement shall appeare.
How deare to me, O God, thy counsels are !
Who may with thee compare ?

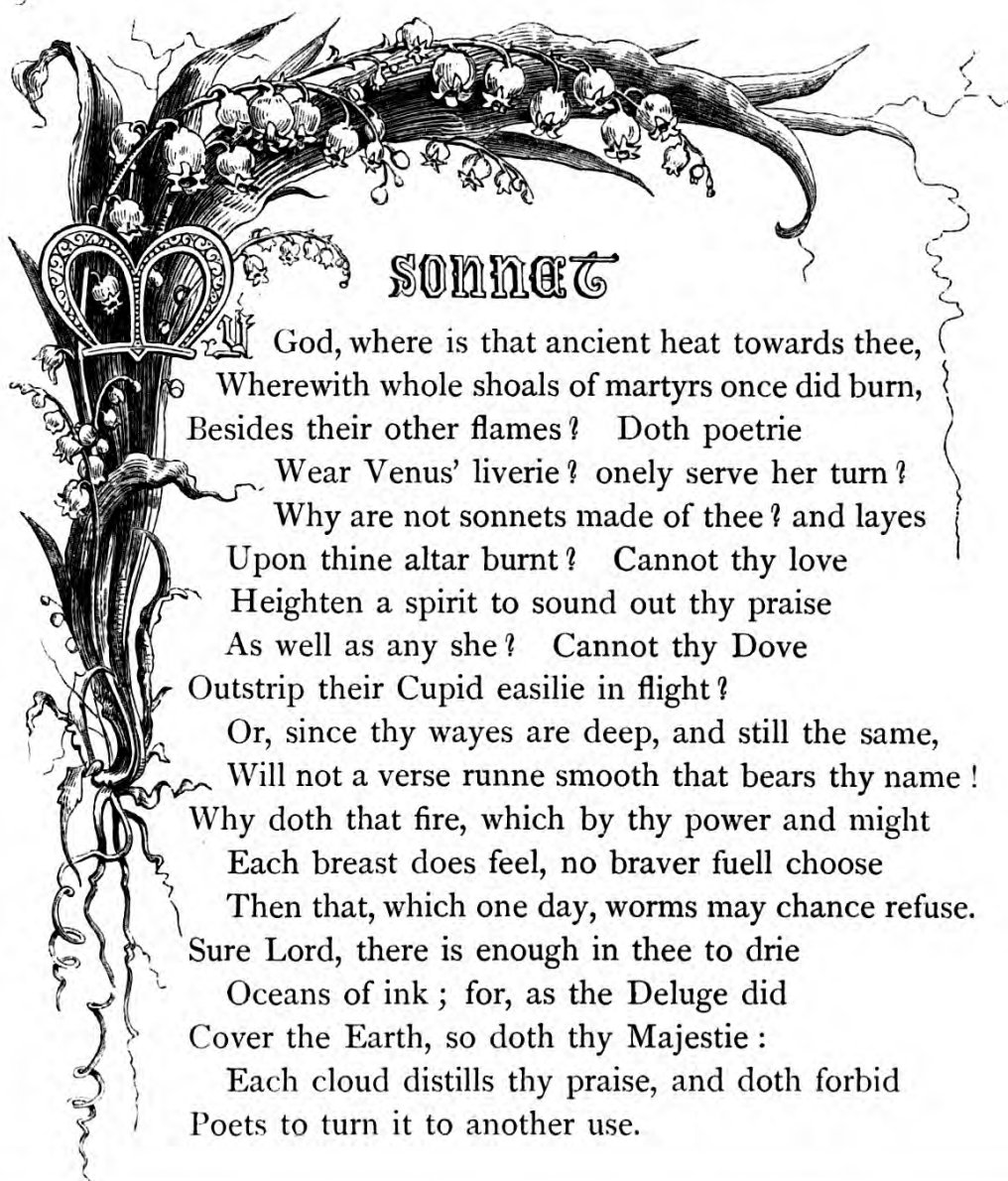
L'ENVOY.

KING of glorie, King of peace,
 With the one make warre to cease ;
 With the other blesse thy sheep,
 Thee to love, in thee to sleep.
 Let not Sinne devoure thy fold,
 Bragging that thy bloud is cold ;
 That thy death is also dead,
 While his conquests dayly spread ;
 That thy flesh hath lost his food,
 And thy Crosse is common wood.
 Choke him, let him say no more,
 But reserve his breath in store,
 Till thy conquest and his fall
 Make his sighs to use it all ;
 And then bargain with the winde
 To discharge what is behinde.

Blessed be God alone,
Thrice blessed Three in One.

MISCELLANEOUS POEMS

A SONNET SENT BY GEORGE HERBERT TO HIS MOTHER AS
A NEW YEAR'S GIFT FROM CAMBRIDGE.



SONNET

God, where is that ancient heat towards thee,
Wherewith whole shoals of martyrs once did burn,
Besides their other flames? Doth poetrie
Wear Venus' liverie? onely serve her turn?
Why are not sonnets made of thee? and layes
Upon thine altar burnt? Cannot thy love
Heighten a spirit to sound out thy praise
As well as any she? Cannot thy Dove
Outstrip their Cupid easilie in flight?
Or, since thy wayes are deep, and still the same,
Will not a verse runne smooth that bears thy name!
Why doth that fire, which by thy power and might
Each breast does feel, no braver fuell choose
Then that, which one day, worms may chance refuse.
Sure Lord, there is enough in thee to drie
Oceans of ink; for, as the Deluge did
Cover the Earth, so doth thy Majestie:
Each cloud distills thy praise, and doth forbid
Poets to turn it to another use.

Roses and lilies speak thee ; and to make
 A pair of cheeks of them, is thy abuse.
 Why should I womens eyes for crystal take ?
 Such poor invention burns in their low minde
 Whose fire is wilde, and doth not upward go
 To praise, and on thee, Lord, some ink bestow.
 Open the bones, and you shall nothing finde
 In the best face but filth ; when Lord, in thee
 The beautie lies, in the discoverie.



INSCRIPTION.

IN THE PARSONAGE, BEMERTON.

TO MY SUCCESSOR.

IF thou chance for to find
 A new House to thy mind
 And built without thy Cost :
 Be good to the Poor,
 As God gives thee store,
 And then, my Labours not lost.

ON

LORD DANVERS.



SACRED marble, safely keep
His dust, who under thee must sleep,
Until the yeares again restore
Their dead, and time shall be no more.

Mean while, if he, (which all things wears)
 Does ruin thee, or if thy tears
 Are shed for him ; dissolve thy frame,
 Thou art requited : for his fame,
 His vertue, and his worth shall be
 Another monument to thee.



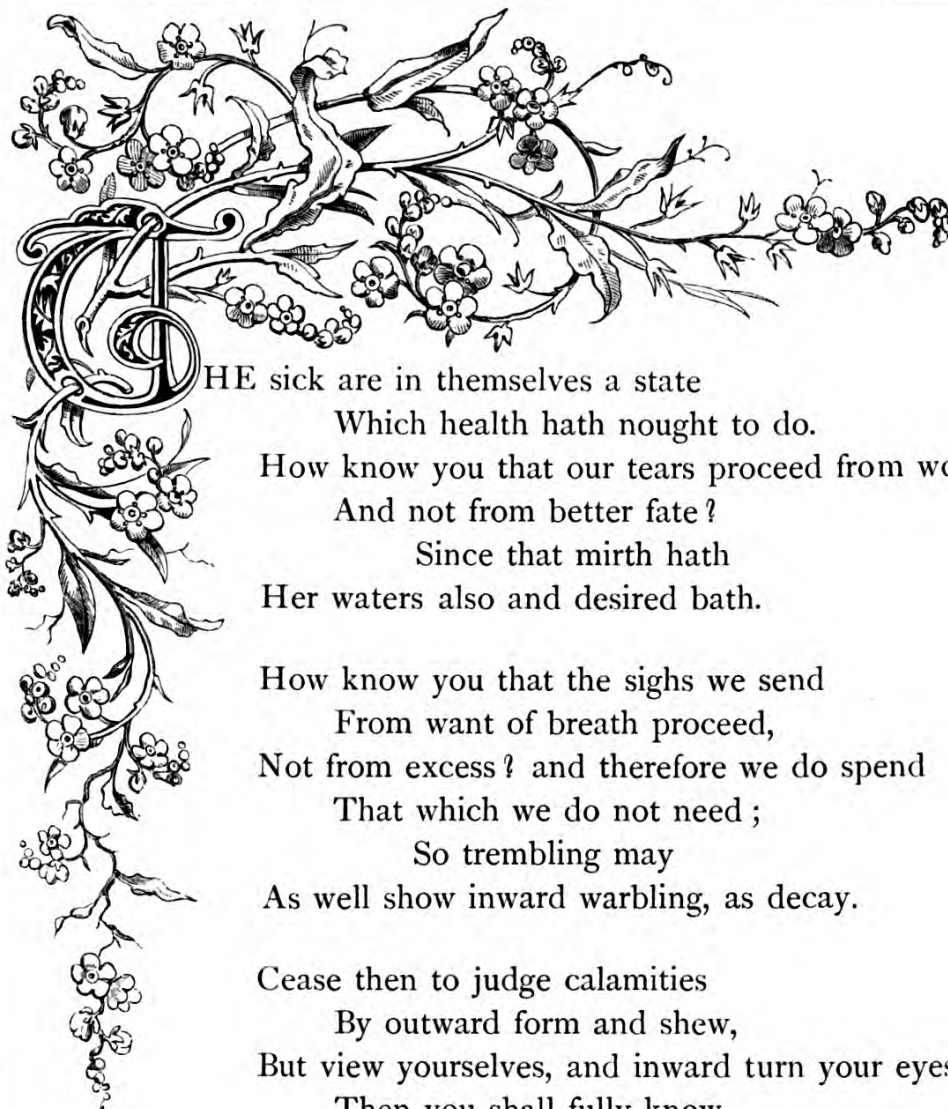
A PARADOX.

(FROM A MS. COLLECTION, FORMERLY DR. RAWLINSON'S, IN THE
 BODLEIAN LIBRARY, OXFORD.)

That the sick are in a better case, then the whole.

YOU who admire yourselves because
 You neither groan nor weep,
 And think it contrarie to Natures laws
 To want one ounce of sleep,
 Your strong belief
 Acquits yourselves, and gives the sick all grief.

Your state to ours is contrarie,
 That makes you think us poore,
 So Black-moors think us foul, and wee
 Are quit with them, and more,
 Nothing can see,
 And judge of things but mediocritie.



HE sick are in themselves a state
Which health hath nought to do.
How know you that our tears proceed from woe,
And not from better fate?
Since that mirth hath
Her waters also and desired bath.

How know you that the sighs we send
From want of breath proceed,
Not from excess? and therefore we do spend
That which we do not need;
So trembling may
As well show inward warbling, as decay.

Cease then to judge calamities
By outward form and shew,
But view yourselves, and inward turn your eyes,
Then you shall fully know
That your estate
Is, of the two, the far more desperate.

You always fear to feel those smarts
Which we but sometimes prove,
Each little comfort much affects our hearts,
None but gross joys you move:
Why then confess
Your fears in number more, your joyes are less.



Then for yourselves not us embrace
 Plaints to bad fortune due,
For though you visit us, and plaint or case,
 We doubt much whether you
 Come to our bed
To comfort us, or to be comforted.



apnt neb
7/6

