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Bt. for Prior Park, Bath.



Henton.



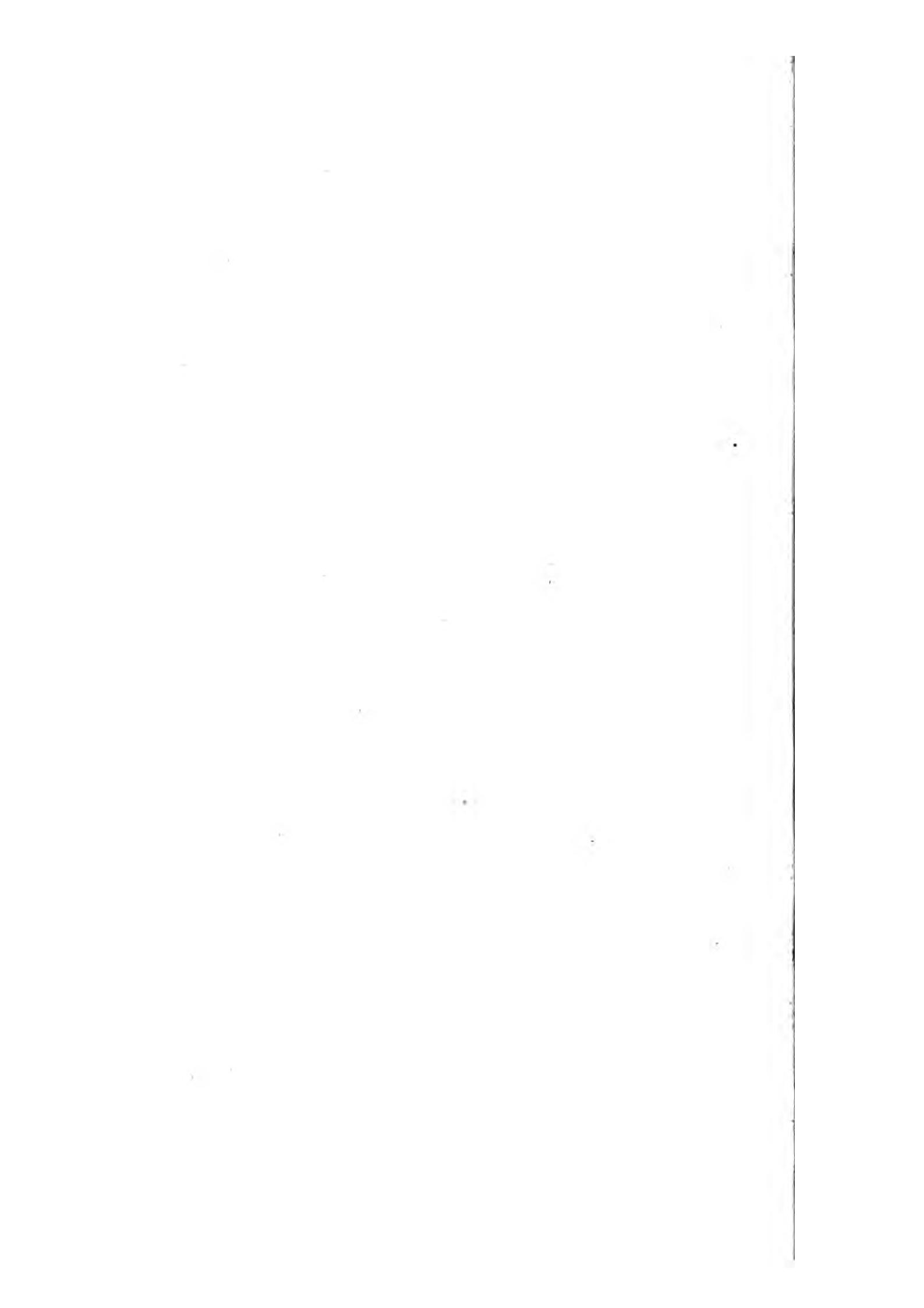
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THOMSON'S SEASONS.



CASTLE OF INDOLENCE.



"Here languid Beauty kept her pale-fac'd court :
Bevies of dainty dames, of high degree,
From every quarter hither made resort,
Where, from gross mortal care and business free,
They lay, pour'd out in ease and luxury."

p. 187.

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Wilfrid Hunter

THE SEASONS: —

AND

CASTLE OF INDOLENCE.

COMMUNITY LIBRARY,
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BY
BATH.

JAMES THOMSON.



LONDON:
WILLIAM SMITH, 113, FLEET STREET.

—
MDCCCXXXVIII.

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13

SPRING.

B

ARGUMENT.

THE subject proposed. Inscribed to the Countess of Hertford. The season is described as it affects the various parts of nature, ascending from the lower to the higher ; with digressions arising from the subject. Its influence on inanimate matter, on vegetables, on brute animals, and lastly on man ; concluding with a dissuasive from the wild and irregular passion of love, opposed to that of a pure and happy kind.

SPRING.

COME, gentle Spring, ethereal mildness, come,
And from the bosom of yon dropping cloud,
While music wakes around, veiled in a shower
Of shadowing roses, on our plains descend.

O Hertford! fitted or to shine in courts
With unaffected grace, or walk the plain
With innocence and meditation joined
In soft assemblage, listen to my song,
Which thy own season paints, when Nature all
Is blooming and benevolent, like thee.

And see where surly Winter passes off,
Far to the north, and calls his ruffian blasts :
His blasts obey, and quit the howling hill,
The shattered forest, and the ravaged vale ;
While softer gales succeed, at whose kind touch,
Dissolving snows in livid torrents lost,
The mountains lift their green heads to the sky.

As yet the trembling year is unconfirmed,
And Winter oft at eve resumes the breeze,
Chills the pale morn, and bids his driving sleets
Deform the day delightless : so that scarce
The bittern knows his time, with bill ingulfed,
To shake the sounding marsh ; or from the shore
The plovers, when to scatter o'er the heath,
And sing their wild notes to the listening waste.

At last from Aries rolls the bounteous sun,
 And the bright Bull receives him. Then no more
 The expansive atmosphere is cramped with cold ;
 But, full of life and vivifying soul,
 Lifts the light clouds sublime, and spreads them thin,
 Fleecy, and white, o'er all-surrounding heaven.

Forth fly the tepid airs ; and unconfined,
 Unbinding earth, the moving softness strays.
 Joyous, the impatient husbandman perceives
 Relenting Nature, and his lusty steers
 Drives from their stalls, to where the well-used plough
 Lies in the furrow, loosened from the frost.
 There, unrefusing, to the harnessed yoke
 They lend their shoulder, and begin their toil,
 Cheered by the simple song and soaring lark.
 Meanwhile incumbent o'er the shining share
 The master leans, removes th' obstructing clay,
 Winds the whole work, and sidelong lays the glebe.

While through the neighbouring fields the sower stalks
 With measured step, and, liberal, throws the grain
 Into the faithful bosom of the ground,
 The harrow follows harsh, and shuts the scene.

Be gracious, Heaven ! for now laborious man
 Has done his part. Ye fostering breezes, blow !
 Ye softening dews, ye tender showers, descend !
 And temper all, thou world-reviving sun,
 Into the perfect year ! Nor ye who live
 In luxury and ease, in pomp and pride,
 Think these lost themes unworthy of your ear :
 Such themes as these the rural Maro sung
 To wide-imperial Rome, in the full height
 Of elegance and taste, by Greece refined.

In ancient times the sacred plough employed
 The kings and awful fathers of mankind :
 And some, with whom compared your insect-tribes
 Are but the beings of a summer's day,
 Have held the scale of empire, ruled the storm

Of mighty war ; then, with unwearied hand,
Disdaining little delicacies, seized
The plough, and greatly independent lived.

Ye generous Britons, venerate the plough !
And o'er your hills, and long withdrawing vales,
Let Autumn spread his treasures to the sun,
Luxuriant and unbounded. As the sea,
Far through his azure turbulent domain,
Your empire owns, and from a thousand shores
Wafts all the pomp of life into your ports,
So with superior boon may your rich soil,
Exuberant, Nature's better blessings pour
O'er every land, the naked nations clothe,
And be th' exhaustless granary of a world !

Nor only through the lenient air this change,
Delicious, breathes ; the penetrative sun,
His force deep-darting to the dark retreat
Of vegetation, sets the steaming Power
At large, to wander o'er the verdant earth,
In various hues ; but chiefly thee, gay green !
Thou smiling Nature's universal robe !
United light and shade ! where the sight dwells
With growing strength, and ever-new delight.

From the moist meadow to the withered hill,
Led by the breeze, the vivid verdure runs,
And swells, and deepens, to the cherished eye.
The hawthorn whitens ; and the juicy groves
Put forth their buds, unfolding by degrees,
Till the whole leafy forest stands displayed
In full luxuriance to the sighing gales ;
Where the deer rustle through the twining brake,
And the birds sing concealed. At once arrayed
In all the colours of the flushing year,
By Nature's swift and secret-working hand,
The garden glows, and fills the liberal air
With lavish fragrance ; while the promised fruit
Lies yet a little embryo unperceived
Within its crimson folds. Now from the town

Buried in smoke, and sleep, and noisome damps,
 Oft let me wander o'er the dewy fields,
 Where freshness breathes, and dash the trembling drops
 From the bent bush, as through the verdant maze
 Of sweetbriar hedges I pursue my walk ;
 Or taste the smell of dairy ; or ascend
 Some eminence, Augusta, in thy plains,
 And see the country, far diffused around,
 One boundless blush, one white-empurpled shower
 Of mingled blossoms ; where the raptured eye
 Hurries from joy to joy, and, hid beneath
 The fair profusion, yellow Autumn spies.

If, brushed from Russian wilds, a cutting gale
 Rise not, and scatter from his humid wings
 The clammy mildew ; or, dry-blowing, breathe
 Untimely frost ; before whose baleful blast
 The full-blown Spring through all her foliage shrinks,
 Joyless and dead, a wide-dejected waste.
 For oft, engendered by the hazy north,
 Myriads on myriads, insect armies warp
 Keen in the poisoned breeze ; and wasteful eat,
 Through buds and bark, into the blackened core,
 Their eager way. A feeble race ! yet oft
 The sacred sons of Vengeance, on whose course
 Corrosive Famine waits, and kills the year.
 To check this plague, the skilful farmer chaff
 And blazing straw before his orchard burns ;
 Till, all involved in smoke, the latent foe
 From every cranny suffocated falls :
 Or scatters o'er the blooms the pungent dust
 Of pepper, fatal to the frosty tribe :
 Or, when the envenomed leaf begins to curl,
 With sprinkled water drowns them in their nest ;
 Nor, while they pick them up with busy bill,
 The little trooping birds unwisely scares.

Be patient, swains ; these cruel-seeming winds
 Blow not in vain. Far hence they keep repressed
 Those deepening clouds on clouds, surcharged with rain,

That o'er the vast Atlantic hither borne,
In endless train, would quench the summer-blaze,
And, cheerless, drown the crude unripened year.

The north-east spends his rage ; he now shut up
Within his iron cave, th' effusive south
Warms the wide air, and o'er the void of heaven
Breathes the big clouds with vernal showers distent.
At first a dusky wreath they seem to rise,
Scarce staining ether ; but by swift degrees,
In heaps on heaps, the doubling vapour sails
Along the loaded sky, and mingling deep
Sits on th' horizon round a settled gloom :
Not such as wintry storms on mortals shed,
Oppressing life ; but lovely, gentle, kind,
And full of every hope and every joy,
The wish of Nature. Gradual sinks the breeze
Into a perfect calm, that not a breath
Is heard to quiver through the closing woods,
Or rustling turn the many-twinkling leaves
Of aspen tall. Th' uncurling floods, diffused
In glassy breadth, seem through delusive lapse
Forgetful of their course. 'Tis silence all
And pleasing expectation. Herds and flocks
Drop the dry sprig, and, mute-imploring, eye
The falling verdure. Hushed in short suspense,
The plummy people streak their wings with oil,
To throw the lucid moisture trickling off,
And wait th' approaching sign to strike, at once,
Into the general choir. E'en mountains, vales,
And forests seem, impatient, to demand
The promised sweetness. Man superior walks
Amid the glad creation, musing praise,
And looking lively gratitude. At last
The clouds consign their treasures to the fields ;
And, softly shaking on the dimpled pool
Prelusive drops, let all their moisture flow,
In large effusion, o'er the freshened world.

The stealing shower is scarce to patter heard
 By such as wander through the forest walks,
 Beneath th' umbrageous multitude of leaves.
 But who can hold the shade, while Heaven descends
 In universal bounty, shedding herbs,
 And fruits, and flowers, on Nature's ample lap ?
 Swift Fancy fired anticipates their growth ;
 And, while the milky nutriment distils,
 Beholds the kindling country colour round.

Thus all day long the full-distended clouds
 Indulge their genial stores, and well-showered earth
 Is deep enriched with vegetable life ;
 Till, in the western sky, the downward sun
 Looks out, effulgent, from amid the flush
 Of broken clouds, gay-shifting to his beam.
 The rapid radiance, instantaneous, strikes
 Th' illumined mountain, through the forest streams,
 Shakes on the floods, and in a yellow mist,
 Far smoking o'er th' interminable plain,
 In twinkling myriads lights the dewy gems.
 Moist, bright, and green, the landscape laughs around.
 Full swell the woods ; their every music wakes,
 Mixed in wild concert with the warbling brooks
 Increased, the distant bleatings of the hills,
 And hollow lows responsive from the vales,
 Whence blending all the sweetened zephyr springs.
 Meantime, refracted from yon eastern cloud,
 Bestriding earth, the grand ethereal bow
 Shoots up immense ; and every hue unfolds
 In fair proportion, running from the red
 To where the violet fades into the sky.
 Here, awful Newton, the dissolving clouds
 Form, fronting on the sun, thy showery prism :
 And to the sage-instructed eye unfold
 The various twine of light, by thee disclosed
 From the white mingling maze. Not so the boy ;
 He wondering views the bright enchantment bend,

Delightful, o'er the radiant fields, and runs
To catch the falling glory ; but amazed
Beholds th' amusive arch before him fly,
Then vanish quite away. Still night succeeds,
A softened shade, and saturated earth
Awaits the morning beam, to give to light,
Raised through ten thousand different plastic tubes,
The balmy treasures of the former day.

Then spring the living herbs, profusely wild,
O'er all the deep-green earth, beyond the power
Of botanist to number up their tribes :
Whether he steals along the lonely dale,
In silent search ; or through the forest, rank
With what the dull incurious weeds account,
Bursts his blind way ; or climbs the mountain rock,
Fired by the nodding verdure of its brow.
With such a liberal hand has Nature flung
Their seeds abroad, blown them about in winds,
Innumerable mixed them with the nursing mould,
The moistening current, and prolific rain.

But who their virtues can declare ? who pierce,
With vision pure, into these secret stores
Of health, and life, and joy ? the food of man,
While yet he lived in innocence, and told
A length of golden years ; unfleshed in blood,
A stranger to the savage arts of life,
Death, rapine, carnage, surfeit, and disease ;
The lord, and not the tyrant, of the world.

The first fresh dawn then waked the gladdened race
Of uncorrupted man, nor blushed to see
The sluggard sleep beneath its sacred beam ;
For their light slumbers gently fumed away,
And up they rose as vigorous as the sun,
Or to the culture of the willing glebe,
Or to the cheerful tendance of the flock.
Meantime the song went round ; and dance and sport,
Wisdom and friendly talk, successive, stole

Their hours away ; while in the rosy vale
 Love breathed his infant sighs, from anguish free,
 And full replete with bliss ; save the sweet pain
 That, inly thrilling, but exalts it more.
 Nor yet injurious act, nor surly deed,
 Was known among those happy sons of Heaven ;
 For reason and benevolence were law.
 Harmonious Nature too looked smiling on.
 Clear shone the skies, cooled with eternal gales,
 And balmy spirit all. The youthful sun
 Shot his best rays, and still the gracious clouds
 Dropped fatness down ; as o'er the swelling mead
 The herds and flocks, commixing, played secure.
 This when, emergent from the gloomy wood,
 The glaring lion saw, his horrid heart
 Was meekened, and he joined his sullen joy ;
 For music held the whole in perfect peace :
 Soft sighed the flute ; the tender voice was heard,
 Warbling the varied heart ; the woodlands round
 Applied their choir ; and winds and waters flowed
 In consonance. Such were those prime of days.

But now those white unblemished manners, whence
 The fabling poets took their golden age,
 Are found no more amid these iron times,
 These dregs of life ! now the distempered mind
 Has lost that concord of harmonious powers
 Which forms the soul of happiness ; and all
 Is off the poise within : the passions all
 Have burst their bounds ; and Reason half extinct,
 Or impotent, or else approving, sees
 The foul disorder. Senseless, and deformed,
 Convulsive Anger storms at large ; or pale,
 And silent, settles into fell Revenge.
 Base Envy withers at another's joy,
 And hates that excellence it cannot reach.
 Desponding Fear, of feeble fancies full,
 Weak and unmanly, loosens every power.

E'en Love itself is bitterness of soul,
 A pensive anguish pining at the heart ;
 Or, sunk to sordid interest, feels no more
 That noble wish, that never-cloyed desire,
 Which, selfish joy disdaining, seeks alone
 To bless the dearer object of its flame.
 Hope sickens with extravagance ; and Grief,
 Of life impatient, into madness swells,
 Or in dead silence wastes the weeping hours.

These, and a thousand mixed emotions more,
 From ever-changing views of good and ill,
 Formed infinitely various, vex the mind
 With endless storm : whence, deeply rankling, grows
 The partial thought, a listless unconcern,
 Cold, and averting from our neighbour's good ;
 Then dark Disgust, and Hatred, winding wiles,
 Coward Deceit, and ruffian Violence :
 At last, extinct each social feeling, fell
 And joyless Inhumanity pervades
 And petrifies the heart. Nature disturbed
 Is deemed, vindictive, to have changed her course.

Hence, in old dusky time, a deluge came :
 When the deep-cleft disparting orb, that arched
 The central waters round, impetuous rushed,
 With universal burst, into the gulf,
 And o'er the high-piled hills of fractured earth
 Wide dashed the waves, in undulation vast :
 Till, from the centre to the streaming clouds,
 A shoreless ocean tumbled round the globe.

The seasons since have, with severer sway,
 Oppressed a broken world : the Winter keen
 Shook forth his waste of snows ; and Summer shot
 His pestilential heats. Great Spring, before,
 Greened all the year ; and fruits and blossoms blushed,
 In social sweetness, on the self-same bough.
 Pure was the temperate air ; an even calm,
 Perpetual, reigned, save what the zephyrs bland

Breathed o'er the blue expanse : for then nor storms
 Were taught to blow, nor hurricanes to rage ;
 Sound slept the waters ; no sulphureous glooms
 Swelled in the sky, and sent the lightning forth ;
 While sickly damps and cold autumnal fogs
 Hung not, relaxing, on the springs of life.
 But now, of turbid elements the sport,
 From clear to cloudy tossed, from hot to cold,
 And dry to moist, with inward-eating change,
 Our drooping days are dwindled down to nought,
 Their period finished ere 'tis well begun.

And yet the wholesome herb neglected dies ;
 Though with the pure exhilarating soul
 Of nutriment and health, and vital powers,
 Beyond the search of art, 'tis copious blest.
 For, with hot ravine fired, ensanguined man
 Is now become the lion of the plain,
 And worse. The wolf, who from the nightly fold
 Fierce drags the bleating prey, ne'er drunk her milk,
 Nor wore her warming fleece ; nor has the steer,
 At whose strong chest the deadly tiger hangs,
 E'er plough'd for him. They too are tempered high,
 With hunger stung and wild necessity,
 Nor lodges pity in their shaggy breast.
 But man, whom Nature formed of milder clay,
 With every kind emotion in his heart,
 And taught alone to weep ; while from her lap
 She pours ten thousand delicacies, herbs,
 And fruits, as numerous as the drops of rain,
 Or beams that gave them birth : shall he, fair form !
 Who wears sweet smiles, and looks erect on Heaven,
 E'er stoop to mingle with the prowling herd,
 And dip his tongue in gore ? The beast of prey,
 Blood-stained, deserves to bleed : but you, ye flocks,
 What have you done ? ye peaceful people, what,
 To merit death ? you, who have given us milk
 In luscious streams, and lent us your own coat

Against the Winter's cold ? and the plain ox,
That harmless, honest, guileless animal,
In what has he offended ? he, whose toil,
Patient and ever ready, clothes the land
With all the pomp of harvest ; shall he bleed,
And struggling groan beneath the cruel hands
E'en of the clown he feeds ? and that, perhaps,
To swell the riot of the autumnal feast,
Won by his labour ? Thus the feeling heart
Would tenderly suggest : but 'tis enough,
In this late age, adventurous, to have touched
Light on the numbers of the Samian sage.
High Heaven forbids the bold presumptuous strain,
Whose wisest will has fixed us in a state
That must not yet to pure perfection rise.

Now when the first foul torrent of the brooks,
Swelled with the vernal rains, is ebb'd away ;
And, whitening, down their mossy-tinctured stream
Descends the billowy foam : now is the time,
While yet the dark-brown water aids the guile,
To tempt the trout. The well-dissembled fly,
The rod fine-tapering with elastic spring,
Snatched from the hoary steed the floating line,
And all thy slender watery stores prepare.
But let not on thy hook the tortured worm,
Convulsive, twist in agonizing folds ;
Which, by rapacious hunger swallowed deep,
Gives, as you tear it from the bleeding breast
Of the weak, helpless, uncomplaining wretch,
Harsh pain and horror to the tender hand.

When with his lively ray the potent sun
Has pierced the streams, and roused the finny race,
Then, issuing cheerful, to thy sport repair ;
Chief should the western breezes curling play,
And light o'er ether bear the shadowy clouds,
High to their fount, this day, amid the hills,
And woodlands, warbling round, trace up the brooks ;

The next, pursue their rocky-channelled maze,
Down to the river, in whose ample wave
Their little naiads love to sport at large.
Just in the dubious point, where with the pool
Is mixed the trembling stream, or where it boils
Around the stone, or from the hollowed bank
Reverted plays in undulating flow,
There throw, nice-judging, the delusive fly ;
And, as you lead it round in artful curve,
With eye attentive mark the springing game.
Straight as above the surface of the flood
They wanton rise, or urged by hunger leap,
Then fix, with gentle twitch, the barbed hook :
Some lightly tossing to the grassy bank,
And to the shelving shore slow-dragging some,
With various hand proportioned to their force.
If yet too young, and easily deceived,
A worthless prey scarce bends your pliant rod,
Him, piteous of his youth and the short space
He has enjoyed the vital light of heaven,
Soft disengage, and back into the stream
The speckled captive throw. But should you lure
From his dark haunt, beneath the tangled roots
Of pendent trees, the monarch of the brook,
Behoves you then to ply your finest art.
Long time he, following cautious, scans the fly ;
And oft attempts to seize it, but as oft
The dimpled water speaks his jealous fear.
At last, while haply o'er the shaded sun
Passes a cloud, he, desperate, takes the death,
With sullen plunge. At once he darts along,
Deep struck, and runs out all the lengthened line ;
Then seeks the farthest ooze, the sheltering weed,
The caverned bank, his old secure abode ;
And flies aloft, and flounces round the pool,
Indignant of the guile. With yielding hand,
That feels him still, yet to his furious course

Gives way, you, now retiring, following now
 Across the stream, exhaust his idle rage ;
 Till floating broad upon his breathless side,
 And to his fate abandoned, to the shore
 You gaily drag your unresisting prize.

Thus pass the temperate hours ; but when the sun
 Shakes from his noon-day throne the scattering clouds,
 E'en shooting listless languor through the deeps,
 Then seek the bank where flowering elders crowd,
 Where scattered wild the lily of the vale
 Its balmy essence breathes, where cowslips hang
 The dewy head, where purple violets lurk,
 With all the lowly children of the shade :
 Or lie reclined beneath yon spreading ash,
 Hung o'er the steep : whence, borne on liquid wing,
 The sounding culver shoots ; or where the hawk,
 High, in the beetling cliff, his eyry builds.
 There let the classic page thy fancy lead
 Through rural scenes, such as the Mantuan swain
 Paints in the matchless harmony of song ;
 Or catch thyself the landscape, gliding swift
 Athwart imagination's vivid eye ;
 Or by the vocal woods and waters lulled,
 And lost in lonely musing, in the dream,
 Confused, of careless solitude, where mix
 Ten thousand wandering images of things,
 Soothe every gust of passion into peace ;
 All but the swellings of the softened heart,
 That waken, not disturb, the tranquil mind.

Behold yon breathing prospect bids the Muse
 Throw all her beauty forth. But who can paint
 Like Nature ? Can imagination boast,
 Amid its gay creation, hues like hers ?
 Or can it mix them with that matchless skill,
 And lose them in each other, as appears
 In every bud that blows ? If fancy then
 Unequal fails beneath the pleasing task,

Ah, what shall language do? ah, where find words
 Tinged with so many colours, and whose power,
 To life approaching, may perfume my lays
 With that fine oil, those aromatic gales,
 That inexhaustive flow continual round?

Yet, though successful, will the toil delight.
 Come then, ye virgins and ye youths, whose hearts
 Have felt the raptures of refining love;
 And thou, Amanda, come, pride of my song!
 Formed by the Graces, loveliness itself!
 Come with those downcast eyes, sedate and sweet,
 Those looks demure, that deeply pierce the soul,
 Where, with the light of thoughtful reason mixed,
 Shines lively fancy and the feeling heart:
 Oh come! and, while the rosy-footed May
 Steals blushing on, together let us tread
 The morning dews, and gather in their prime
 Fresh-blooming flowers, to grace thy braided hair,
 And thy loved bosom that improves their sweets.

See, where the winding vale its lavish stores,
 Irriguous, spreads. See, how the lily drinks
 The latent rill, scarce oozing through the grass,
 Of growth luxuriant; or the humid bank,
 In fair profusion, decks. Long let us walk,
 Where the breeze blows from yon extended field
 Of blossomed beans. Arabia cannot boast
 A fuller gale of joy, than, liberal, thence
 Breathes through the sense, and takes the ravished soul.
 Nor is the mead unworthy of thy foot,
 Full of fresh verdure, and unnumbered flowers,
 The negligence of Nature, wide, and wild;
 Where, undisguised by mimic Art, she spreads
 Unbounded beauty to the roving eye.
 Here their delicious task the fervent bees,
 In swarming millions, tend: around, athwart,
 Through the soft air, the busy nations fly,
 Cling to the bud, and, with inserted tube,

Suck its pure essence, its ethereal soul ;
And oft, with bolder wing, they soaring dare
The purple heath, or where the wild thyme grows,
And, yellow, load them with the luscious spoil.

At length the finished garden to the view
Its vistas opens, and its alleys green.
Snatched through the verdant maze, the hurried eye
Distracted wanders ; now the bowery walk
Of covert close, where scarce a speck of day
Falls on the lengthened gloom, protracted sweeps ;
Now meets the bending sky ; the river now
Dimpling along, the breezy-ruffled lake,
The forest darkening round, the glittering spire,
Th' ethereal mountain, and the distant main,
But why so far excursive ? when at hand,
Along these blushing borders, bright with dew,
And in yon mingled wilderness of flowers,
Fair-handed Spring unbosoms every grace,
Throws out the snow-drop, and the crocus first ;
The daisy, primrose, violet darkly blue,
And polyanthus of unnumbered dyes ;
The yellow wall-flower, stained with iron brown ;
And lavish stock that scents the garden round :
From the soft wing of vernal breezes shed,
Anemones ; auriculas, enriched
With shining meal o'er all their velvet leaves ;
And full ranunculus, of glowing red.
Then comes the tulip-race, where Beauty plays
Her idle freaks ; from family diffused
To family, as flies the father-dust,
The varied colours run ; and, while they break
On the charmed eye, th' exulting florist marks,
With secret pride, the wonders of his hand.
No gradual bloom is wanting ; from the bud,
First-born of Spring, to Summer's musky tribes :
Nor hyacinths, of purest virgin white,
• Low-bent, and blushing inward ; nor jonquils,

Of potent fragrance ; nor Narcissus fair,
 As o'er the fabled fountain hanging still ;
 Nor broad carnations, nor gay-spotted pinks ;
 Nor, showered from every bush, the damask-rose.
 Infinite numbers, delicacies, smells,
 With hues on hues expression cannot paint,
 The breath of Nature, and her endless bloom.

Hail, Source of Being ! Universal Soul
 Of heaven and earth ! Essential Presence, hail !
 To Thee I bend the knee : to Thee my thoughts,
 Continual, climb ; who, with a master-hand,
 Hast the great whole into perfection touched.
 By Thee the various vegetative tribes,
 Wrapt in a filmy net, and clad with leaves,
 Draw the live ether, and imbibe the dew :
 By Thee disposed into congenial soils
 Stands each attractive plant, and sucks, and swells
 The juicy tide ; a twining mass of tubes.
 At Thy command the vernal sun awakes
 The torpid sap, detruded to the root
 By wintry winds, that now in fluent dance,
 And lively fermentation, mounting, spreads
 All this innumerable-coloured scene of things,
 As rising from the vegetable world
 My theme ascends, with equal wing ascend,
 My panting Muse ! and hark, how loud the woods
 Invite you forth in all your gayest trim.
 Lend me your song, ye nightingales ! oh, pour
 The mazy-running soul of melody
 Into my varied verse ! while I deduce,
 From the first note the hollow cuckoo sings,
 The symphony of Spring, and touch a theme
 Unknown to Fame,—the passion of the groves.

When first the soul of love is sent abroad,
 Warm through the vital air, and on the heart
 Harmonious seizes, the gay troops begin,
 In gallant thought, to plume the painted wing,

And try again the long-forgotten strain,
 At first faint-warbled ; but no sooner grows
 The soft infusion prevalent, and wide,
 Than, all alive, at once their joy o'erflows
 In music unconfined. Up-springs the lark,
 Shrill-voiced, and loud, the messenger of morn :
 Ere yet the shadows fly, he mounted sings
 Amid the dawning clouds, and from their haunts
 Calls up the tuneful nations. Every copse
 Deep-tangled, tree irregular, and bush
 Bending with dewy moisture o'er the heads
 Of the coy choristers that lodge within,
 Are prodigal of harmony. The thrush
 And wood-lark, o'er the kind-contending throng
 Superior heard, run through the sweetest length
 Of notes ; when listening Philomela deigns
 To let them joy, and purposes, in thought
 Elate, to make her night excel their day.
 The black-bird whistles from the thorny brake ;
 The mellow bullfinch answers from the grove :
 Nor are the linnets, o'er the flowering furze
 Poured out profusely, silent. Joined to these
 Innumerable songsters, in the freshening shade
 Of new-sprung leaves, their modulations mix
 Mellifluous. The jay, the rook, the daw,
 And each harsh pipe, discordant heard alone,
 Aid the full concert : while the stock-dove breathes
 A melancholy murmur through the whole.

'Tis love creates their melody, and all
 This waste of music is the voice of love,
 That e'en to birds, and beasts, the tender arts
 Of pleasing teaches. Hence the glossy kind
 Try every winning way inventive love
 Can dictate, and in courtship to their mates
 Pour forth their little souls. First, wide around,
 With distant awe, in airy rings they rove,

Endeavouring by a thousand tricks to catch
The cunning, conscious, half-averted glance
Of the regardless charmer. Should she seem,
Softening, the least approbance to bestow,
Their colours burnish, and, by hope inspired,
They brisk advance ; then, on a sudden struck,
Retire disordered ; then again approach ;
In fond rotation spread the spotted wing,
And shiver every feather with desire.

Connubial leagues agreed, to the deep woods
They haste away, all as their fancy leads,
Pleasure, or food, or secret safety prompts ;
That Nature's great command may be obeyed :
Nor all the sweet sensations they perceive
Indulged in vain. Some to the holly-hedge
Nestling repair, and to the thicket some ;
Some to the rude protection of the thorn
Commit their feeble offspring. The cleft tree
Offers its kind concealment to a few,
Their food its insects, and its moss their nests.
Others apart far in the grassy dale,
Or roughening waste, their humble texture weave.
But most in woodland solitudes delight,
In unfrequented glooms, or shaggy banks,
Steep, and divided by a babbling brook,
Whose murmurs soothe them all the live-long day,
When by kind duty fixed. Among the roots
Of hazel, pendent o'er the plaintive stream,
They frame the first foundation of their domes ;
Dry sprigs of trees, in artful fabric laid,
And bound with clay together. Now 'tis nought
But restless hurry through the busy air,
Beat by unnumbered wings. The swallow sweeps
The slimy pool, to build his hanging house
Intent. And often, from the careless back
Of herds and flocks, a thousand tugging bills

Pluck hair and wool ; and oft, when unobserved,
Steal from the barn a straw : till soft and warm,
Clean and complete, their habitation grows.

As thus the patient dam assiduous sits,
Not to be tempted from her tender task
Or by sharp hunger or by smooth delight,
Though the whole loosened Spring around her blows,
Her sympathising lover takes his stand
High on th' opponent bank, and ceaseless sings
The tedious time away ; or else supplies
Her place a moment, while she sudden flits
To pick the scanty meal. Th' appointed time
With pious toil fulfilled, the callow young,
Warmed and expanded into perfect life,
Their brittle bondage break, and come to light,
A helpless family, demanding food
With constant clamour. O what passions then,
What melting sentiments of kindly care,
On the new parents seize ! away they fly
Affectionate, and undesiring bear
The most delicious morsel to their young ;
Which equally distributed, again
The search begins. Even so a gentle pair,
By fortune sunk, but formed of generous mould,
And charmed with cares beyond the vulgar breast,
In some lone cot amid the distant woods,
Sustained alone by providential Heaven,
Oft, as they weeping eye their infant train,
Check their own appetites, and give them all.

Nor toil alone they scorn : exalting love,
By the great Father of the Spring inspired,
Gives instant courage to the fearful race,
And to the simple, art. With stealthy wing,
Should some rude foot their woody haunts molest,
Amid a neighbouring bush they silent drop,
And whirring thence, as if alarmed, deceive
Th' unfeeling school boy. Hence, around the head

Of wandering swain, the white-winged plover wheels
 Her sounding flight, and then directly on
 In long excursion skims the level lawn,
 To tempt him from her nest. The wild-duck, hence,
 O'er the rough moss, and o'er the trackless waste
 The heath-hen flutters, pious fraud ! to lead
 The hot-pursuing spaniel far astray.

Be not the Muse ashamed here to bemoan
 Her brothers of the grove, by tyrant man
 Inhuman caught, and in the narrow cage
 From liberty confined, and boundless air.
 Dull are the pretty slaves, their plumage dull,
 Ragged, and all its brightening lustre lost ;
 Nor is that sprightly wildness in their notes,
 Which, clear and vigorous, warbles from the beech.
 Oh then, ye friends of love and love-taught song,
 Spare the soft tribes, this barbarous art forbear,
 If on your bosom innocence can win,
 Music engage, or piety persuade.

But let not chief the nightingale lament
 Her ruined care, too delicately framed
 To brook the harsh confinement of the cage.
 Oft when, returning with her loaded bill,
 Th' astonished mother finds a vacant nest,
 By the hard hand of unrelenting clowns
 Robbed, to the ground the vain provision falls ;
 Her pinions ruffle, and, low-drooping, scarce
 Can bear the mourner to the poplar shade ;
 Where, all abandoned to despair, she sings
 Her sorrows through the night ; and, on the bough,
 Sole-sitting, still at every dying fall
 Takes up again her lamentable strain
 Of winding woe ; till, wide around, the woods
 Sigh to her song, and with her wail resound.

But now the feathered youth their former bounds,
 Ardent, disdain ; and, weighing oft their wings,
 Demand the free possession of the sky :

This one glad office more, and then dissolves
 Parental love at once, now needless grown.
 Unlavish Wisdom never works in vain.
 'Tis on some evening, sunny, grateful, mild,
 When nought but balm is breathing through the woods,
 With yellow lustre bright, that the new tribes
 Visit the spacious heavens, and look abroad
 On Nature's common, far as they can see,
 Or wing, their range and pasture. O'er the boughs
 Dancing about, still at the giddy verge
 Their resolution fails ; their pinions still,
 In loose libration stretched, to trust the void
 Trembling refuse ; till down before them fly
 The parent guides, and chide, exhort, command,
 Or push them off. The surging air receives
 Its plummy burden ; and their self-taught wings
 Winnow the waving element. On ground
 Alighted, bolder up again they lead,
 Farther and farther on, the lengthening flight ;
 Till vanished every fear, and every power
 Roused into life and action, light in air
 Th' acquitted parents see their soaring race,
 And once rejoicing never know them more.

High from the summit of a craggy cliff,
 Hung o'er the deep, such as amazing frowns
 On utmost Kilda's shore, whose lonely race
 Resign the setting sun to Indian worlds,
 The royal eagle draws his vigorous young,
 Strong-pounced, and ardent with paternal fire.
 Now fit to raise a kingdom of their own,
 He drives them from his fort, the towering seat,
 For ages, of his empire ; which, in peace,
 Unstained, he holds, while many a league to sea
 He wings his course, and preys in distant isles.

Should I my steps turn to the rural seat,
 Whose lofty elms, and venerable oaks,
 Invite the rook, who high amid the boughs,

In early Spring, his airy city builds,
 And ceaseless caws amusive ; there, well-pleased,
 I might the various polity survey
 Of the mixed household kind. The careful hen
 Calls all her chirping family around,
 Fed and defended by the fearless cock,
 Whose breast with ardour flames, as on he walks,
 Graceful, and crows defiance. In the pond,
 The finely-checked duck before her train
 Rows garrulous. The stately-sailing swan
 Gives out his snowy plumage to the gale ;
 And, arching proud his neck, with oary feet
 Bears forward fierce, and guards his osier-isle,
 Protective of his young. The turkey nigh,
 Loud threat'ning, reddens ; while the peacock spreads
 His every-coloured glory to the sun,
 And swims in radiant majesty along.
 O'er the whole homely scene, the cooing dove
 Flies thick in amorous chase, and wanton rolls
 The glancing eye, and turns the changeful neck.

While thus the gentle tenants of the shade
 Indulge their purer loves, the rougher world
 Of brutes, below, rush furious into flame,
 And fierce desire. Through all his lusty veins
 The bull, deep-scorched, the raging passion feels.
 Of pasture sick, and negligent of food,
 Scarce seen, he wades among the yellow broom,
 While o'er his ample sides the rambling spray
 Luxuriant shoot ; or through the mazy wood
 Dejected wanders, nor th' enticing bud
 Crops, though it presses on his careless sense.
 And oft, in jealous madd'ning fancy rapt,
 He seeks the fight ; and, idly butting, feigns
 His rival gored in every knotty trunk.
 Him should he meet, the bellowing war begins :
 Their eyes flash fury ; to the hollowed earth,
 Whence the sand flies, they mutter bloody deeds,

And, groaning deep, th' impetuous battle mix :
 While the fair heifer, balmy-breathing, near,
 Stands kindling up their rage. The trembling steed,
 With this hot impulse seized in every nerve,
 Nor heeds the rein, nor hears the sounding thong :
 Blows are not felt ; but tossing high his head,
 And by the well known joy to distant plains
 Attracted strong, all wild he bursts away ;
 O'er rocks, and woods, and craggy mountains flies,
 And, neighing, on the aërial summit takes
 Th' exciting gale ; then, steep-descending, cleaves
 The headlong torrents foaming down the hills,
 E'en where the madness of the straitened stream
 Turns in black eddies round : such is the force
 With which his frantic heart and sinews swell.

Nor undelighted by the boundless Spring
 Are the broad monsters of the foaming deep :
 From the deep ooze and gelid cavern roused,
 They flounce and tumble in unwieldy joy.
 Dire were the strain, and dissonant, to sing
 The cruel raptures of the savage kind ;
 How, by this flame their native wrath sublimed,
 They roam, amid the fury of their heart,
 The far-resounding waste in fiercer bands,
 And growl their horrid loves. But this the theme
 I sing, enraptured, to the British Fair,
 Forbids, and leads me to the mountain-brow,
 Where sits the shepherd on the grassy turf,
 Inhaling, healthful, the descending sun.
 Around him feeds his many-bleating flock,
 Of various cadence ; and his sportive lambs,
 This way and that convolved, in friskful glee,
 Their frolics play. And now the sprightly race
 Invites them forth ; when swift, the signal given,
 They start away, and sweep the massy mound
 That runs around the hill ; the rampart once
 Of iron war, in ancient barbarous times,

When disunited Britain ever bled,
 Lost in eternal broil : ere yet she grew
 To this deep-laid indissoluble state,
 Where Wealth and Commerce lift their golden heads ;
 And o'er our labours Liberty and Law,
 Impartial, watch ; the wonder of a world !

What is this mighty breath, ye sages, say,
 That, in a powerful language, felt, not heard,
 Instructs the fowls of heaven, and through their breast
 These arts of love diffuses ? What, but God ?
 Inspiring God ! who boundless Spirit all,
 And unremitting Energy, pervades,
 Adjusts, sustains, and agitates the whole.
 He ceaseless works alone ; and yet alone
 Seems not to work : with such perfection framed
 Is this complex stupendous scheme of things.
 But, though concealed, to every purer eye
 Th' informing Author in his works appears :
 Chief, lovely Spring, in thee, and thy soft scenes,
 The smiling God is seen ; while water, earth,
 And air, attest his bounty ; which exalts
 The brute creation to this finer thought,
 And, annual, melts their undesigning hearts
 Profusely thus in tenderness and joy.

Still let my song a nobler note assume,
 And sing th' infusive force of Spring on man ;
 When heaven and earth, as if contending, vie
 To raise his being, and serene his soul.
 Can he forbear to join the general smile
 Of Nature ? Can fierce passions vex his breast,
 While every gale is peace, and every grove
 Is melody ? Hence ! from the bounteous walks
 Of flowing Spring, ye sordid sons of earth,
 Hard, and unfeeling of another's woe,
 Or only lavish to yourselves, away !
 But come, ye generous minds, in whose wide thought,
 Of all his works, creative Bounty burns

With warmest beam ; and on your open front
 And liberal eye sits, from his dark retreat
 Inviting modest Want. Nor, till invoked,
 Can restless Goodness wait ; your active search
 Leaves no cold wintry corner unexplored ;
 Like silent-working Heaven, surprising oft
 The lonely heart with unexpected good.
 For you the roving spirit of the wind
 Blows Spring abroad ; for you the teeming clouds
 Descend in gladsome plenty o'er the world ;
 And the sun sheds his kindest rays for you,
 Ye flower of Human Race ! In these green days,
 Reviving Sickness lifts her languid head ;
 Life flows afresh ; and young-eyed Health exalts
 The whole creation round. Contentment walks
 The sunny glade, and feels an inward bliss
 Spring o'er his mind, beyond the power of kings
 To purchase. Pure serenity apace
 Induces thought, and contemplation still.
 By swift degrees the love of Nature works,
 And warms the bosom ; till at last sublimed
 To rapture, and enthusiastic heat,
 We feel the present Deity, and taste
 The joy of God to see a happy world !

These are the sacred feelings of thy heart,
 Thy heart informed by reason's purer ray,
 O Lyttelton, the friend ! thy passions thus
 And meditations vary, as at large,
 Courting the Muse, through Hagley Park thou stray'st ;
 The British Tempé ! There along the dale,
 With woods o'er-hung, and shagged with mossy rocks,
 Whence on each hand the gushing waters play,
 And down the rough cascade white-dashing fall,
 Or gleam in lengthened vista through the trees,
 You silent steal ; or sit beneath the shade
 Of solemn oaks, that tuft the swelling mounts
 Thrown graceful round by Nature's careless hand,

And, pensive, listen to the various voice
Of rural peace : the herds, the flocks, the birds,
The hollow-whispering breeze, the plaint of rills,
That, purling down amid the twisted roots
Which creep around, their dewy murmurs shake
On the soothed ear. From these abstracted oft,
You wander through the philosophic world,
Where in bright train continual wonders rise,
Or to the curious or the pious eye.
And oft, conducted by historic truth,
You tread the long extent of backward time ;
Planning, with warm benevolence of mind,
And honest zeal unwarped by party-rage,
Britannia's weal ; how from the venal gulf
To raise her virtue, and her arts revive.
Or, turning thence thy view, these graver thoughts
The Muses charm : while, with sure taste refined,
You draw th' inspiring breath of ancient song
Till nobly rises, emulous, thy own.
Perhaps thy loved Lucinda shares thy walk,
With soul to thine attuned. Then Nature all
Wears to the lover's eye a look of love ;
And all the tumult of a guilty world,
Tossed by ungenerous passions, sinks away.
The tender heart is animated peace,
And as it pours its copious treasures forth
In varied converse, softening every theme,
You, frequent-pausing, turn, and from her eyes,
Where meekened sense, and amiable grace,
And lively sweetness dwell, enraptured, drink
That nameless spirit of ethereal joy,
Unutterable happiness ! which love
Alone bestows, and on a favoured few.
Meantime you gain the height, from whose fair brow
The bursting prospect spreads, immense, around :
And snatched o'er hill and dale, and wood and lawn,
And verdant field, and darkening heath between,

And villages embosomed soft in trees,
 And spiry towns by surging columns marked
 Of household smoke, your eye excursive roams :
 Wide-stretching from the hall, in whose kind haunt
 The Hospitable Genius lingers still,
 To where the broken landscape, by degrees,
 Ascending, roughens into rigid hills ;
 O'er which the Cambrian mountains, like far clouds
 That skirt the blue horizon, dusky rise.

Flushed by the spirit of the genial year,
 Now from the virgin's cheek a fresher bloom
 Shoots, less and less, the live carnation round ;
 Her lips blush deeper sweets : she breathes of youth ;
 The shining moisture swells into her eyes,
 In brighter flow ; her wishing bosom heaves
 With palpitations wild ; kind tumults seize
 Her veins, and all her yielding soul is love.
 From the keen gaze her lover turns away,
 Full of the dear ecstatic power, and sick
 With sighing languishment. Ah then, ye fair !
 Be greatly cautious of your sliding hearts :
 Dare not the infectious sigh ; the pleading look,
 Downcast and low, in meek submission dressed,
 But full of guile. Let not the fervent tongue,
 Prompt to deceive, with adulation smooth,
 Gain on your purposed will. Nor in the bower,
 Where woodbines flaunt, and roses shed a couch,
 While Evening draws her crimson curtains round,
 Trust your soft minutes with betraying man.

And let the aspiring youth beware of love,
 Of the smooth glance beware ; for 'tis too late
 When on his heart the torrent-softness pours.
 Then wisdom prostrate lies, and fading fame
 Dissolves in air away ; while the fond soul,
 Wrapped in gay visions of unreal bliss,
 Still paints th' illusive form ; the kindling grace ;
 Th' enticing smile ; the modest-seeming eye,

Beneath whose beauteous beams, belying heaven,
Lurk searchless cunning, cruelty, and death ;
And still, false-warbling in his cheated ear,
Her siren voice, enchanting, draws him on
To guileful shores, and meads of fatal joy.

E'en present, in the very lap of love
Inglorious laid ; while music flows around,
Perfumes, and oils, and wine, and wanton hours ;
Amid the roses fierce Repentance rears
Her snaky crest : a quick-returning pang
Shoots through the conscious heart ; where honour still,
And great design, against th' oppressive load
Of luxury, by fits, impatient heave.

But absent, what fantastic woes, aroused,
Rage in each thought, by restless musing fed,
Chill the warm cheek, and blast the bloom of life !
Neglected fortune flies ; and, sliding swift,
Prone into ruin fall his scorned affairs.

'Tis nought but gloom around : the darkened sun
Loses his light : the rosy-bosomed Spring
To weeping fancy pines ; and yon bright arch,
Contracted, bends into a dusky vault.

All Nature fades extinct ; and she alone,
Heard, felt, and seen, possesses every thought,
Fills every sense, and pants in every vein.
Books are but formal dulness, tedious friends ;
And sad amid the social band he sits,
Lonely, and unattentive. From his tongue
Th' unfinished period falls : while, borne away
On swelling thought, his wafted spirit flies
To the vain bosom of his distant fair ;
And leaves the semblance of a lover, fixed
In melancholy site, with head declined,
And love-dejected eyes. Sudden he starts,
Shook from his tender trance, and restless runs
To glimmering shades, and sympathetic glooms ;
Where the dun umbrage o'er the falling stream,

Romantic, hangs ; there through the pensive dusk
Strays, in heart-thrilling meditation lost,
Indulging all to love : or on the bank
Thrown, amid drooping lilies, swells the breeze
With sighs unceasing, and the brook with tears.

Thus in soft anguish he consumes the day,
Nor quits his deep retirement, till the Moon
Peeps through the chambers of the fleecy east,
Enlightened by degrees, and in her train
Leads on the gentle Hours ; then forth he walks,
Beneath the trembling languish of her beam,
With softened soul, and woos the bird of eve
To mingle woes with his ; or, while the world
And all the sons of Care lie hushed in sleep,
Associates with the midnight shadows drear ;
And, sighing to the lonely taper, pours
His idly-tortured heart into the page
Meant for the moving messenger of love ;
Where rapture burns on rapture, every line
With rising frenzy fired. But, if on bed
Delirious flung, sleep from his pillow flies.
All night he tosses, nor the balmy power
In any posture finds ; till the grey Morn
Lifts her pale lustre on the paler wretch,
Exanimate by love : and then perhaps
Exhausted nature sinks awhile to rest,
Still interrupted by distracted dreams,
That o'er the sick imagination rise,
And in black colours paint the mimic scene.

Oft with th' enchantress of his soul he talks ;
Sometimes in crowds distressed ; or if retired
To secret winding flower-enwoven bowers,
Far from the dull impertinence of man,
Just as he, credulous, his endless cares
Begins to lose in blind oblivious love,
Snatched from her yielded hand, he knows not how,
Through forest huge, and long untravelled heaths

With desolation brown, he wanders waste,
 In night and tempest wrapped ; or shrinks aghast,
 Back, from the bending precipice ; or wades
 The turbid stream below, and strives to reach
 The farther shore ; where, succourless and sad,
 She with extended arms his aid implores ;
 But strives in vain : borne by th' outrageous flood
 To distance down, he rides the ridgy wave,
 Or whelmed beneath the boiling eddy sinks.

These are the charming agonies of love,
 Whose misery delights. But through the heart
 Should jealousy its venom once diffuse,
 'Tis then delightful misery no more,
 But agony unmixed, incessant gall,
 Corroding every thought, and blasting all
 Love's paradise. Ye fairy prospects, then,
 Ye beds of roses, and ye bowers of joy,
 Farewell ! Ye gleamings of departed peace,
 Shine out your last ! the yellow-tinging plague
 Internal vision taints, and in a night
 Of livid gloom imagination wraps.
 Ah then ! instead of love-enlivened cheeks,
 Of sunny features, and of ardent eyes
 With flowing rapture bright, dark looks succeed,
 Suffused and glaring with untender fire ;
 A clouded aspect, and a burning cheek,
 Where the whole poisoned soul, malignant, sits,
 And frightens love away. Ten thousand fears
 Invented wild, ten thousand frantic views
 Of horrid rivals, hanging on the charms
 For which he melts in fondness, eat him up
 With fervent anguish and consuming rage.
 In vain reproaches lend their idle aid,
 Deceitful pride, and resolution frail,
 Giving false peace a moment. Fancy pours,
 Afresh, her beauties on his busy thought,
 Her first endearments twining round the soul,

With all the witchcraft of ensnaring love.
 Straight the fierce storm involves his mind anew,
 Flames through the nerves, and boils along the veins ;
 While anxious doubt distracts the tortured heart :
 For e'en the sad assurance of his fears
 Were ease to what he feels. Thus the warm youth,
 Whom love deludes into his thorny wilds,
 Through flowery-tempting paths, or leads a life
 Of fevered rapture, or of cruel care ;
 His brightest aims extinguished all, and all
 His lively moments running down to waste.

But happy they ! the happiest of their kind !
 Whom gentler stars unite, and in one fate
 Their hearts, their fortunes, and their beings blend.
 'Tis not the coarser tie of human laws,
 Unnatural oft, and foreign to the mind,
 That binds their peace, but harmony itself,
 Attuning all their passions into love ;
 Where friendship full-exerts her softest power,
 Perfect esteem enlivened by desire
 Ineffable, and sympathy of soul ;
 Thought meeting thought, and will preventing will,
 With boundless confidence : for nought but love
 Can answer love, and render bliss secure.
 Let him, ungenerous, who, alone intent
 To bless himself, from sordid parents buys
 The loathing virgin, in eternal care,
 Well-merited, consume his nights and days :
 Let barbarous nations, whose inhuman love
 Is wild desire, fierce as the suns they feel ;
 Let eastern tyrants from the light of heaven
 Seclude their bosom-slaves, meanly possessed
 Of a mere lifeless violated form :
 While those whom love cements in holy faith,
 And equal transport, free as Nature live,
 Disdaining fear. What is the world to them,
 Its pomp, its pleasure, and its nonsense all,

Who in each other clasp whatever fair
High fancy forms, and lavish hearts can wish;
Something than beauty dearer, should they look
Or on the mind, or mind-illumined face :
Truth, goodness, honour, harmony, and love,
The richest bounty of indulgent heaven ?
Meantime a smiling offspring rises round,
And mingles both their graces. By degrees,
The human blossom blows : and every day,
Soft as it rolls along, shows some new charm,
The father's lustre, and the mother's bloom.
Then infant reason grows apace, and calls
For the kind hand of an assiduous care.
Delightful task ! to rear the tender thought,
To teach the young idea how to shoot,
To pour the fresh instruction o'er the mind,
To breathe th' enlivening spirit, and to fix
The generous purpose in the glowing breast.
Oh, speak the joy ! ye, whom the sudden tear
Surprises often, while you look around,
And nothing strikes your eye but sights of bliss,
All various Nature pressing on the heart :
An elegant sufficiency, content,
Retirement, rural quiet, friendship, books,
Ease and alternate labour, useful life,
Progressive virtue, and approving Heaven.
These are the matchless joys of virtuous love ;
And thus their moments fly. The Seasons thus,
As ceaseless round a jarring world they roll,
Still find them happy ; and consenting Spring
Sheds her own rosy garland on their heads :
Till evening comes at last, serene and mild ;
When after the long vernal day of life,
Enamoured more, as more remembrance swells
With many a proof of recollected love,
Together down they sink in social sleep ;
Together freed, their gentle spirits fly
To scenes where love and bliss immortal reign.

SUMMER.

ARGUMENT.

THE subject proposed. Invocation. Address to Mr. Dodington.

An introductory reflection on the motion of the heavenly bodies; whence the succession of the seasons. As the face of nature in this season is almost uniform, the progress of the poem is a description of a summer's day. The dawn. Sun-rising. Hymn to the sun. Forenoon. Summer insects described. Hay-making. Sheep-shearing. Noon-day. A woodland retreat. Group of herds and flocks. A solemn grove; how it affects a contemplative mind. A cataract, and rude scene. View of summer in the torrid zone. Storm of thunder and lightning. A tale. The storm over, a serene afternoon. Bathing. Hour of walking. Transition to the prospect of a rich well-cultivated country; which introduces a panegyric on Great Britain. Sunset. Evening. Night. Summer meteors. A comet. The whole concluding with the praise of philosophy.

SUMMER.

FROM brightening fields of ether fair disclosed,
Child of the Sun, refulgent Summer comes,
In pride of youth, and felt through Nature's depth :
He comes attended by the sultry Hours,
And ever-fanning breezes, on his way ;
While, from his ardent look, the turning Spring
Averts her blushful face ; and earth, and skies,
All-smiling, to his hot dominion leaves.

Hence, let me haste into the mid-wood shade,
Where scarce a sunbeam wanders through the gloom ;
And on the dark-green grass, beside the brink
Of haunted stream, that by the roots of oak
Rolls o'er the rocky channel, lie at large,
And sing the glories of the circling year.

Come, Inspiration ! from thy hermit-seat,
By mortal seldom found ; may Fancy dare,
From thy fixed serious eye, and raptured glance
Shot on surrounding Heaven, to steal one look
Creative of the Poet, every power
Exalting to an ecstasy of soul.

And thou, my youthful Muse's early friend,
In whom the human graces all unite :
Pure light of mind, and tenderness of heart ;
Genius, and wisdom : the gay social sense,
By decency chastised ; goodness and wit,

In seldom-meeting harmony combined ;
 Unblemished honour, and an active zeal
 For Britain's glory, liberty, and man :
 O Dodington ! attend my rural song,
 Stoop to my theme, inspirit every line,
 And teach me to deserve thy just applause.

With what an awful world-revolving power
 Were first th' unwieldly planets launched along
 'Th' illimitable void ! thus to remain,
 Amid the flux of many thousand years,
 That oft has swept the toiling race of men
 And all their laboured monuments away,
 Firm, unremitting, matchless, in their course ;
 To the kind-tempered change of night and day,
 And of the seasons ever stealing round,
 Minutely faithful : such th' All-perfect hand
 That poised, impels, and rules the steady whole !

When now no more th' alternate Twins are fired,
 And Cancer reddens with the solar blaze,
 Short is the doubtful empire of the night ;
 And soon, observant of approaching day,
 The meek-eyed Morn appears, mother of dews,
 At first faint-gleaming in the dappled east :
 Till far o'er ether spreads the widening glow ;
 And, from before the lustre of her face,
 White break the clouds away. With quickened step,
 Brown Night retires : young Day pours in apace,
 And opens all the lawny prospect wide.
 The dripping-rock, the mountain's misty top,
 Swell on the sight, and brighten with the dawn.
 Blue, through the dusk, the smoking currents shine ;
 And from the bladed field the fearful hare
 Limp, awkward ; while along the forest glade
 The wild deer trip, and often turning gaze
 At early passenger. Music awakes
 The native voice of undissembled joy :
 And thick around the woodland hymns arise.

Roused by the cock, the soon-clad shepherd leaves
 His mossy cottage, where with Peace he dwells ;
 And from the crowded fold, in order, drives
 His flock, to taste the verdure of the morn.

Falsely luxurious ! will not man awake ;
 And, springing from the bed of sloth, enjoy
 The cool, the fragrant, and the silent hour,
 To meditation due and sacred song ?
 For is there aught in sleep can charm the wise ?
 To lie in dead oblivion, losing half
 The fleeting moments of too short a life ;
 Total extinction of th' enlightened soul !
 Or else to feverish vanity alive,
 Wildered, and tossing through distempered dreams ?
 Who would in such a gloomy state remain
 Longer than Nature craves, when every Muse
 And every blooming pleasure waits without,
 To bless the wildly-devious morning-walk ?

But yonder comes the powerful King of Day,
 Rejoicing in the east. The lessening cloud,
 The kindling azure, and the mountain's brow
 Illumed with fluid gold, his near approach
 Betoken glad. Lo ! now, apparent all,
 Aslant the dew-bright earth, and coloured air,
 He looks in boundless majesty abroad ;
 And sheds the shining day, that burnished plays
 On rocks, and hills, and towers, and wandering streams,
 High-gleaming from afar. Prime cheerer, Light !
 Of all material beings first, and best !
 Efflux divine ! Nature's resplendent robe !
 Without whose vesting beauty all were wrapt
 In unessential gloom ; and thou, O Sun !
 Soul of surrounding worlds ! in whom best seen
 Shines out thy Maker ! may I sing of thee ?

'Tis by thy secret, strong, attractive force,
 As with a chain indissoluble bound,
 Thy system rolls entire : from the far bourne

Of utmost Saturn, wheeling wide his round
 Of thirty years, to Mercury, whose disk
 Can scarce be caught by philosophic eye,
 Lost in the near effulgence of thy blaze.

Informer of the planetary train !
 Without whose quickening glance their cumbrous orbs
 Were brute unlovely mass, inert and dead,
 And not, as now, the green abodes of life !
 How many forms of being wait on thee,
 Inhaling spirit ; from th' unfettered mind,
 By thee sublimed, down to the daily race,
 The mixing myriads of thy setting beam !

The vegetable world is also thine,
 Parent of Seasons ! who the pomp precede
 That waits thy throne, as through thy vast domain,
 Annual, along the bright ecliptic road,
 In world-rejoicing state, it moves sublime.
 Meantime th' expecting nations, circled gay
 With all the various tribes of foodful earth,
 Implore thy bounty, or send grateful up
 A common hymn : while, round thy beaming car,
 High seen, the Seasons lead, in sprightly dance
 Harmonious knit, the rosy-fingered Hours,
 The Zephyrs floating loose, the timely Rains,
 Of bloom ethereal the light-footed Dews,
 And softened into joy the surly Storms.
 These, in successive turn, with lavish hand,
 Shower every beauty, every fragrance shower,
 Herbs, flowers, and fruits ; till, kindling at thy touch,
 From land to land is flushed the vernal year.

Nor to the surface of enlivened earth,
 Graceful with hills and dales, and leafy woods,
 Her liberal tresses, is thy force confined :
 But, to the bowelled cavern darting deep,
 The mineral kinds confess thy mighty power.
 Effulgent, hence the veiny marble shines ;
 Hence Labour draws his tools ; hence burnished War

Gleams on the day ; the nobler works of Peace
Hence bless mankind, and generous Commerce binds
The round of nations in a golden chain.

Th' unfruitful rock itself, impregn'd by thee,
In dark retirement forms the lucid stone.
The lively diamond drinks thy purest rays,
Collected light, compact ; that, polished bright,
And all its native lustre let abroad,
Dares, as it sparkles on the fair-one's breast,
With vain ambition emulate her eyes.
At thee the ruby lights its deepening glow,
And with a waving radiance inward flames.
From thee the sapphire, solid ether, takes
Its hue cerulean ; and, of evening tinct,
The purple-streaming amethyst is thine.
With thy own smile the yellow topaz burns.
Nor deeper verdure dyes the robe of Spring,
When first she gives it to the southern gale,
Than the green emerald shows. But, all combined,
Thick through the whitening opal play thy beams ;
Or, flying several from its surface, form
A trembling variance of revolving hues,
As the site varies in the gazer's hand.

The very dead creation, from thy touch,
Assumes a mimic life. By thee refined,
In brighter mazes the relucent stream
Plays o'er the mead. The precipice abrupt,
Projecting horror on the blackened flood,
Softens at thy return. The desert joys,
Wildly, through all his melancholy bounds.
Rude ruins glitter ; and the briny deep,
Seen from some pointed promontory's top,
Far to the blue horizon's utmost verge,
Restless, reflects a floating gleam. But this,
And all the much-transported Muse can sing,
Are to thy beauty, dignity, and use,

Unequal far ; great delegated Source
Of light, and life, and grace, and joy below !

How shall I then attempt to sing of HIM !
Who, Light-himself, in uncreated light
Invested deep, dwells awfully retired
From mortal eye or angel's purer ken,
Whose single smile has, from the first of time,
Filled, overflowing, all those lamps of Heaven,
That beam for ever through the boundless sky :
But, should he hide his face, the astonished sun,
And all th' extinguished stars, would loosening reel
Wide from their spheres, and Chaos come again.

And yet was every faltering tongue of man,
ALMIGHTY FATHER ! silent in thy praise,
Thy works themselves would raise a general voice,
E'en in the depth of solitary woods
By human foot untrod ; proclaim thy power,
And to the choir celestial THEE resound,
Th' eternal cause, support, and end of all !

To me be Nature's volume broad-displayed ;
And to peruse its all-instructing page,
Or, haply catching inspiration thence,
Some easy passage, raptured, to translate,
My sole delight ; as through the falling glooms
Pensive I stray, or with the rising dawn
On Fancy's eagle-wing, excursive, soar.

Now, flaming up the heavens, the potent sun
Melts into limpid air the high-raised clouds,
And morning fogs, that hovered round the hills
In party-coloured bands : till wide unveiled
The face of Nature shines, from where earth seems,
Far-stretched around, to meet the bending sphere.

Half in a blush of clustering roses lost,
Dew-dropping Coolness to the shade retires ;
There, on the verdant turf, or flowery bed,
By gelid founts and careless rills to muse ;

While tyrant Heat, dispreading through the sky,
With rapid sway, his burning influence darts
On man, and beast, and herb, and tepid stream.

Who can unpitying see the flowery race,
Shed by the morn, their new-flushed bloom resign,
Before the parching beam? so fade the fair,
When fevers revel through their azure veins.
But one, the lofty follower of the sun,
Sad when he sets, shuts up her yellow leaves,
Drooping all night; and, when he warm returns,
Points her enamoured bosom to his ray.

Home, from his morning task, the swain retreats;
His flock before him stepping to the fold:
While the full-uddered mother lows around
The cheerful cottage, then expecting food,
The food of innocence and health! The daw,
The rook, and magpie, to the grey-grown oaks
That the calm village in their verdant arms,
Sheltering, embrace, direct their lazy flight;
Where on the mingling boughs they sit embowered,
All the hot noon, till cooler hours arise.
Faint, underneath, the household fowls convene;
And, in a corner of the buzzing shade,
The house-dog, with the vacant greyhound, lies,
Outstretched, and sleepy. In his slumbers one
Attacks the nightly thief, and one exults
O'er hill and dale; till, wakened by the wasp,
They starting snap. Nor shall the Muse disdain
To let the little-noisy summer race
Live in her lay, and flutter through her song:
Not mean though simple: to the sun allied,
From him they draw their animating fire.

Waked by his warmer ray, the reptile young
Come winged abroad; by the light air upborne,
Lighter, and full of soul. From every chink
And secret corner, where they slept away
The wintry storms; or rising from their tombs,

To higher life ; by myriads, forth at once,
Swarming they pour ; of all the varied hues
Their beauty-beaming parent can disclose.
Ten thousand forms, ten thousand different tribes,
People the blaze. To sunny waters some
By fatal instinct fly ; where on the pool
They, sportive, wheel ; or, sailing down the stream,
Are snatched immediate by the quick-eyed trout,
Or darting salmon. Through the green-wood glade
Some love to stray ; there lodged, amused, and fed,
In the fresh leaf. Luxurious, others make
The meads their choice, and visit every flower,
And every latent herb : for the sweet task,
To propagate their kinds, and where to wrap,
In what soft beds, their young yet undisclosed,
Employs their tender care. Some to the house,
The fold, and dairy, hungry, bend their flight ;
Sip round the pail, or taste the curdling cheese ;
Oft, inadvertent, from the milky stream
They meet their fate ; or, weltering in the bowl,
With powerless wings around them wrapt, expire.

But chief to heedless flies the window proves
A constant death ; where, gloomily retired,
The villain spider lives, cunning, and fierce,
Mixture abhorred ! Amid a mangled heap
Of carcasses, in eager watch he sits,
O'erlooking all his waving snares around.
Near the dire cell the dreadless wanderer oft
Passes, as oft the ruffian shows his front ;
The prey at last ensnared, he dreadful darts,
With rapid glide, along the leaning line ;
And, fixing in the wretch his cruel fangs,
Strikes backward, grimly pleased : the fluttering wing
And shriller sound declare extreme distress,
And ask the helping hospitable hand.

Resounds the living surface of the ground :
Nor unde lightful is the ceaseless hum,

To him who muses through the woods at noon ;
Or drowsy shepherd, as he lies reclined,
With half-shut eyes, beneath the floating shade
Of willows grey, close-crowding o'er the brook.

Gradual, from these what numerous kinds descend,
Evading e'en the microscopic eye !
Full Nature swarms with life ; one wondrous mass
Of animals, or atoms organized,
Waiting the vital breath, when Parent-Heaven
Shall bid his spirit blow. The hoary fen,
In putrid steams, emits the living cloud
Of pestilence. Through subterranean cells,
Where searching sunbeams scarce can find a way,
Earth animated heaves. The flowery leaf
Wants not its soft inhabitants. Secure,
Within its winding citadel, the stone
Holds multitudes. But chief the forest-boughs,
That dance unnumbered to the playful breeze,
The downy orchard, and the melting pulp
Of mellow fruit, the nameless nations feed
Of evanescent insects. Where the pool
Stands mantled o'er with green, invisible,
Amid the floating verdure millions stray.
Each liquid too, whether it pierces, soothes,
Inflames, refreshes, or exalts the taste,
With various forms abounds. Nor is the stream
Of purest crystal, nor the lucid air,
Though one transparent vacancy it seems,
Void of their unseen people. These, concealed
By the kind art of forming Heaven, escape
The grosser eye of man ; for, if the worlds
In worlds enclosed should on his senses burst,
From cates ambrosial, and the nectared bowl,
He would abhorrent turn, and in dead night,
When silence sleeps o'er all, be stunn'd with noise.

Let no presuming impious railer tax
Creative Wisdom, as if aught was formed

In vain, or not for admirable ends.
 Shall little haughty Ignorance pronounce
 His works unwise, of which the smallest part
 Exceeds the narrow vision of her mind ?
 As if upon a full proportioned dome,
 On swelling columns heaved, the pride of art,
 A critic-fly, whose feeble ray scarce spreads
 An inch around, with blind presumption bold,
 Should dare to tax the structure of the whole.
 And lives the man, whose universal eye
 Has swept at once th' unbounded scheme of things,
 Marked their dependence so, and firm accord,
 As with unfaltering accent to conclude
 That this availeth nought ? Has any seen
 The mighty chain of beings, lessening down
 From Infinite Perfection to the brink
 Of dreary nothing, desolate abyss !
 From which astonished thought, recoiling, turns ?
 Till then alone let zealous praise ascend,
 And hymns of holy wonder, to that Power
 Whose wisdom shines as lovely on our minds,
 As on our smiling eyes his servant-sun.

Thick in yon stream of light, a thousand ways,
 Upward, and downward, thwarting, and convolved,
 The quivering nations sport ; till, tempest-winged,
 Fierce Winter sweeps them from the face of day.
 E'en so luxurious men, unheeding, pass
 An idle summer life in fortune's shine,
 A season's glitter ! Thus they flutter on
 From toy to toy, from vanity to vice ;
 Till, blown away by death, oblivion comes
 Behind, and strikes them from the book of life.

Now swarms the village o'er the jovial mead ;
 The rustic youth, brown with meridian toil,
 Healthful and strong ; full as the summer-rose
 Blown by prevailing suns, the ruddy maid,
 Half-naked, swelling on the sight, and all

Her kindled graces burning o'er her cheek.
E'en stooping age is here ; and infant-hands
Trail the long rake, or, with the fragrant load
O'ercharged, amid the kind oppression roll.
Wide flies the tedded grain ; all in a row
Advancing broad, or wheeling round the field,
They spread the breathing harvest to the sun,
That throws refreshful round a rural smell :
Or, as they rake the green-appearing ground,
And drive the dusky wave along the mead,
The russet hay-cock rises thick behind,
In order gay. While heard from dale to dale,
Waking the breeze, resounds the blended voice
Of happy labour, love, and social glee.

Or rushing thence, in one diffusive band,
They drive the troubled flocks, by many a dog
Compelled, to where the mazy-running brook
Forms a deep pool ; this bank abrupt and high,
And that fair-spreading in a pebbled shore.
Urged to the giddy brink, much is the toil,
The clamour much, of men, and boys, and dogs,
Ere the soft fearful people to the flood
Commit their woolly sides. And oft the swain,
On some impatient seizing, hurls them in :
Emboldened then, nor hesitating more,
Fast, fast, they plunge amid the flashing wave,
And, panting, labour to the farthest shore.
Repeated this, till deep the well-washed fleece
Has drunk the flood, and from his lively haunt
The trout is banished by the sordid stream ;
Heavy, and dripping, to the breezy brow
Slow move the harmless race : where, as they spread
Their swelling treasures to the sunny ray,
Inly disturbed, and wondering what this wild
Outrageous tumult means, their loud complaints
The country fill ; and, tossed from rock to rock,

Incessant bleatings run around the hills.
 At last, of snowy white, the gathered flocks
 Are in the wattled pen, innumeros, pressed,
 Head above head : and ranged in lusty rows
 The shepherds sit, and whet the sounding shears.
 The housewife waits to roll her fleecy stores,
 With all her gay-dressed maids attending round.
 One, chief, in gracious dignity enthroned,
 Shines o'er the rest, the pastoral queen, and rays
 Her smiles, sweet-beaming, on her shepherd-king ;
 While the glad circle round them yield their souls
 To festive mirth, and wit that knows no gall.
 Meantime, their joyous task goes on apace :
 Some mingling stir the melted tar, and some,
 Deep on the new-shorn vagrant's heaving side,
 To stamp the master's cypher ready stand ;
 Others th' unwilling wether drag along ;
 And, glorying in his might, the sturdy boy
 Holds by the twisted horns th' indignant ram.
 Behold where bound, and of its robe bereft,
 By needy man, that all-depending lord,
 How meek, how patient, the mild creature lies !
 What softness in its melancholy face,
 What dumb complaining innocence appears !
 Fear not, ye gentle tribes, 'tis not the knife
 Of horrid slaughter that is o'er you waved ;
 No, 'tis the tender swain's well-guided shears,
 Who having now, to pay his annual care,
 Borrowed your fleece, to you a cumbrous load,
 Will send you bounding to your hills again.

A simple scene ! yet hence Britannia sees
 Her solid grandeur rise : hence she commands
 Th' exalted stores of every brighter clime,
 The treasures of the Sun without his rage :
 Hence, fervent all, with culture, toil, and arts,
 Wide glows her land : her dreadful thunder hence

Rides o'er the waves sublime, and now, e'en now,
 Impending hangs o'er Gallia's humbled coast ;
 Hence rules the circling deep, and awes the world.

'Tis raging noon ; and, vertical, the sun
 Darts on the head direct his forceful rays.
 O'er heaven and earth, far as the ranging eye
 Can sweep, a dazzling deluge reigns ; and all
 From pole to pole is undistinguished blaze.
 In vain the sight, dejected, to the ground
 Stoops for relief ; thence hot ascending steams
 And keen reflection pain. Deep to the root
 Of vegetation parched, the cleaving fields
 And slippery lawn an arid hue disclose,
 Blast Fancy's bloom, and wither e'en the soul.
 Echo no more returns the cheerful sound
 Of sharpening scythe : the mower, sinking, heaps
 O'er him the humid hay, with flowers perfumed ;
 And scarce a chirping grasshopper is heard
 Through the dumb mead. Distressful Nature pants.
 The very streams look languid from afar ;
 Or, through th' unsheltered glade, impatient, seem
 To hurl into the covert of the grove.

All-conquering Heat, oh, intermit thy wrath !
 And on my throbbing temples potent thus
 Beam not so fierce ! incessant still you flow,
 And still another fervent flood succeeds,
 Poured on the head profuse. In vain I sigh,
 And restless turn, and look around for night ;
 Night is far off ; and hotter hours approach.
 Thrice happy he ! who on the sunless side
 Of a romantic mountain, forest-crowned,
 Beneath the whole collected shade reclines :
 Or in the gelid caverns, woodbine-wrought,
 And fresh-bedewed with ever-spouting streams,
 Sits coolly calm ; while all the world without,
 Unsatisfied, and sick, tosses in noon.
 Emblem instructive of the virtuous man,

Who keeps his tempered mind serene and pure,
 And every passion aptly harmonized,
 Amid a jarring world with vice inflamed.

Welcome, ye shades ! ye bowery thickets, hail !
 Ye lofty pines ! ye venerable oaks !
 Ye ashes wild, resounding o'er the steep !
 Delicious is your shelter to the soul,
 As to the hunted hart the sallying spring,
 Or stream full-flowing, that his swelling sides
 Laves, as he floats along the herbage'd brink.
 Cool, through the nerves, your pleasing comfort glides ;
 The heart beats glad ; the fresh-expanded eye
 And ear resume their watch ; the sinews knit ;
 And life shoots swift through all the lightened limbs.

Around th' adjoining brook, that purls along
 The vocal grove, now fretting o'er a rock,
 Now scarcely moving through a reedy pool,
 Now starting to a sudden stream, and now
 Gently diffused into a limpid plain ;
 A various group the herds and flocks compose,
 Rural confusion ! On the grassy bank
 Some ruminating lie ; while others stand
 Half in the flood, and often bending sip
 The circling surface. In the middle droops
 The strong laborious ox, of honest front,
 Which incomposed he shakes ; and from his sides
 The troublous insects lashes with his tail,
 Returning still. Amid his subjects safe,
 Slumbers the monarch-swain ; his careless arm
 Thrown round his head, on downy moss sustained ;
 Here laid his scrip, with wholesome viands filled ;
 There, listening every noise, his watchful dog.
 Light fly his slumbers, if perchance a flight
 Of angry gad-flies fasten on the herd,
 That startling scatters from the shallow brook,
 In search of lavish stream. Tossing the foam,
 They scorn the keeper's voice, and scour the plain,

Through all the bright severity of noon ;
 While from their labouring breasts a hollow moan
 Proceeding, runs low-bellowing round the hills.

Oft in this season too the horse, provoked,
 While his big sinews full of spirits swell,
 Trembling with vigour, in the heat of blood,
 Springs the high fence ; and, o'er the field effused,
 Darts on the gloomy flood, with steadfast eye,
 And heart estranged to fear : his nervous chest,
 Luxuriant, and erect, the seat of strength !
 Bears down th' opposing stream ; quenchless his thirst :
 He takes the river at redoubled draughts,
 And with wide nostrils, snorting, skims the wave.

Still let me pierce into the midnight depth
 Of yonder grove, of wildest largest growth ;
 That, forming high in air a woodland choir,
 Nods o'er the mount beneath. At every step,
 Solemn and slow, the shadows blacker fall,
 And all is awful listening gloom around.

These are the haunts of Meditation, these
 The scenes where ancient bards th' inspiring breath,
 Ecstatic, felt ; and, from this world retired,
 Conversed with angels, and immortal forms,
 On gracious errands bent ; to save the fall
 Of virtue struggling on the brink of vice ;
 In waking whispers, and repeated dreams,
 To hint pure thought, and warn the favoured soul
 For future trials fated to prepare ;
 To prompt the poet, who devoted gives
 His muse to better themes ; to soothe the pangs
 Of dying worth, and from the patriot's breast
 (Backward to mingle in detested war,
 But foremost when engaged) to turn the death ;
 And numberless such offices of love,
 Daily, and nightly, zealous to perform.

Shook sudden from the bosom of the sky,
 A thousand shapes or glide athwart the dusk,

Or stalk majestic on. Deep-roused, I feel
 A sacred terror, a severe delight,
 Creep through my mortal frame ; and thus, methinks,
 A voice, than human more, th' abstracted ear
 Of Fancy strikes. " Be not of us afraid,
 Poor kindred man ! thy fellow-creatures, we
 From the same Parent-Power our beings drew,
 The same our Lord, and laws, and great pursuit.
 Once some of us, like thee, through stormy life,
 Toiled, tempest-beaten, ere we could attain
 This holy calm, this harmony of mind,
 Where purity and peace immingle charms.
 Then fear not us ; but with responsive song,
 Amid these dim recesses, undisturbed
 By noisy folly and discordant vice,
 Of Nature sing with us, and Nature's God.
 Here frequent, at the visionary hour,
 When musing midnight reigns or silent noon,
 Angelic harps are in full concert heard,
 And voices chanting from the wood-crowned hill,
 The deepening dale, or inmost sylvan glade :
 A privilege bestowed by us, alone,
 On Contemplation, or the hallowed ear
 Of poet, swelling to seraphic strain."

And art thou, Stanley, of that sacred band ?
 Alas, for us too soon ! though raised above
 The reach of human pain, above the flight
 Of human joy ; yet, with a mingled ray
 Of sadly pleased remembrance, must thou feel
 A mother's love, a mother's tender woe,
 Who seeks thee still, in many a former scene ;
 Seeks thy fair form, thy lovely beaming eyes,
 Thy pleasing converse, by gay lively sense
 Inspired, where moral wisdom mildly shone
 Without the toil of art ; and virtue glowed,
 In all her smiles, without forbidding pride.
 But, O thou best of parents ! wipe thy tears ;

Or rather to Parental Nature pay
The tears of grateful joy, who for a while
Lent thee this younger self, this opening bloom
Of thy enlightened mind and gentle worth.
Believe the Muse : the wintry blast of death
Kills not the buds of virtue ; no, they spread,
Beneath the heavenly beam of brighter suns,
Through endless ages, into higher powers.

Thus up the mount, in airy vision rapt,
I stray, regardless whither, till the sound
Of a near fall of water every sense
Wakes from the charm of thought : swift-shrinking back,
I check my steps, and view the broken scene.

Smooth to the shelving brink a copious flood
Rolls fair and placid, where collected all,
In one impetuous torrent, down the steep
It thundering shoots, and shakes the country round.
At first, an azure sheet, it rushes broad ;
Then whitening by degrees, as prone it falls,
And, from the loud-resounding rocks below,
Dashed in a cloud of foam, it sends aloft
A hoary mist, and forms a ceaseless shower.
Nor can the tortured wave here find repose ;
But, raging still amid the shaggy rocks,
Now flashes o'er the scattered fragments, now
Aslant the hollowed channel rapid darts ;
And falling fast from gradual slope to slope,
With wild infracted course and lessened roar,
It gains a safer bed, and steals, at last,
Along the mazes of the quiet vale.

Invited from the cliff, to whose dark brow
He clings, the steep-ascending eagle soars,
With upward pinions through the flood of day ;
And, giving full his bosom to the blaze,
Gains on the sun ; while all the tuneful race,
Smit by afflictive noon, disordered droop,
Deep in the thicket ; or, from bower to bower

Responsive, force an interrupted strain.
The stock-dove only through the forest cooes,
Mournfully hoarse ; oft ceasing from his plaint,
Short interval of weary woe ! again
The sad idea of his murdered mate,
Struck from his side by savage fowler's guile,
Across his fancy comes ; and then resounds
A louder song of sorrow through the grove.

Beside the dewy border let me sit,
All in the freshness of the humid air ;
There in that hollowed rock, grotesque and wild,
An ample chair moss-lined, and over head
By flowering umbrage shaded ; where the bee
Strays diligent, and with th' extracted balm
Of fragrant woodbine loads his little thigh.

Now, while I taste the sweetness of the shade,
While Nature lies around deep-lulled in noon,
Now come, bold Fancy, spread a daring flight,
And view the wonders of the torrid zone :
Climes unrelenting ! with whose rage compared
Yon blaze is feeble, and yon skies are cool.

See, how at once the bright-effulgent sun,
Rising direct, swift chases from the sky
The short-lived twilight, and with ardent blaze
Looks gaily fierce through all the dazzling air :
He mounts his throne ; but kind before him sends,
Issuing from out the portals of the morn,
The general breeze, to mitigate his fire
And breathe refreshment on a fainting world.
Great are the scenes, with dreadful beauty crowned
And barbarous wealth, that see, each circling year,
Returning suns and double seasons pass ;
Rocks rich in gems, and mountains big with mines,
That on the high equator ridgy rise,
Whence many a bursting stream auriferous plays :
Majestic woods, of every vigorous green,
Stage above stage, high-waving o'er the hills ;

Or to the far horizon wide diffused,
A boundless deep immensity of shade.
Here lofty trees, to ancient song unknown,
The noble sons of potent heat and floods
Prone-rushing from the clouds, rear high to heaven
Their thorny stems, and broad around them throw
Meridian gloom. Here, in eternal prime,
Unnumbered fruits, of keen delicious taste
And vital spirit, drink amid the cliffs,
And burning sands that bank the shrubby vales,
Redoubled day, yet in their rugged coats
A friendly juice to cool its rage contain.

Bear me, Pomona, to thy citron groves,
To where the lemon and the piercing lime,
With the deep orange, glowing through the green,
Their lighter glories blend. Lay me reclined
Beneath the spreading tamarind, that shakes,
Fanned by the breeze, its fever-cooling fruit.
Deep in the night the massy locust sheds,
Quench my hot limbs ; or lead me through the maze,
Embowering endless, of the Indian fig ;
Or, thrown at gayer ease on some fair brow,
Let me behold, by breezy murmurs cooled,
Broad o'er my head the verdant cedar wave,
And high palmetos lift their graceful shade.
Or, stretched amid these orchards of the sun,
Give me to drain the cocoa's milky bowl,
And from the palm to draw its freshening wine,
More bounteous far than all the frantic juice
Which Bacchus pours ! Nor, on its slender twigs
Low-bending, be the full pomegranate scorned ;
Nor, creeping through the woods, the gelid race
Of berries. Oft in humble station dwells
Unboastful worth, above fastidious pomp.
Witness, thou best Anana, thou the pride
Of vegetable life, beyond whate'er
The poets imaged in the golden age :

Quick let me strip thee of thy tufty coat,
Spread thy ambrosial stores, and feast with Jove !

From these the prospect varies. Plains immense
Lie stretched below, interminable meads,
And vast savannahs, where the wandering eye,
Unfixed, is in a verdant ocean lost.

Another Flora there, of bolder hues,
And richer sweets, beyond our garden's pride,
Plays o'er the fields, and showers with sudden hand
Exuberant Spring ; for oft these valleys shift
Their green-embroidered robe to fiery brown,
And swift to green again, as scorching suns,
Or streaming dews and torrent rains, prevail.

Along these lonely regions, where, retired
From little scenes of art, great Nature dwells
In awful solitude, and nought is seen
But the wild herds that own no master's stall,
Prodigious rivers roll their fattening seas,
On whose luxuriant herbage, half-concealed,
Like a fallen cedar, far-diffused his train,
Cased in green scales, the crocodile extends.
The flood disparts : behold ! in plaited mail,
Behemoth rears his head. Glanced from his side,
The darted steel in idle shivers flies ;
He fearless walks the plain, or seeks the hills,
Where, as he crops his varied fare, the herds,
In widening circle round, forget their food,
And at the harmless stranger wondering gaze.

Peaceful, beneath primeval trees, that cast
Their ample shade o'er Niger's yellow stream,
And where the Ganges rolls his sacred wave ;
Or mid the central depth of blackening woods,
High-raised in solemn theatre around,
Leans the huge elephant : wisest of brutes !
O truly wise, with gentle might endowed,
Though powerful, not destructive ! Here he sees
Revolving ages sweep the changeful earth,

And empires rise and fall ; regardless he
Of what the never-resting race of men
Project : thrice-happy ! could he 'scape their guile,
Who mine, from cruel avarice, his steps ;
Or with his towery grandeur swell their state,
The pride of kings ! or else his strength pervert,
And bid him rage amid the mortal fray,
Astonished at the madness of mankind.

Wide o'er the winding umbrage of the floods,
Like vivid blossoms glowing from afar,
Thick swarm the brighter birds ; for Nature's hand,
That with a sportive vanity has decked
The plummy nations, there her gayest hues
Profusely pours. But, if she bids them shine,
Arrayed in all the beauteous beams of day,
Yet, frugal still, she humbles them in song.
Nor envy we the gaudy robes they lent
Proud Montezuma's realm, whose legions cast
A boundless radiance waving on the sun,
While Philomel is ours ; while in our shades,
Through the soft silence of the listening night,
The sober-suited songstress trills her lay.

But come, my Muse, the desert-barrier burst,
A wild expanse of lifeless sand and sky,
And, swifter than the toiling caravan,
Shoot o'er the vale of Sennar, ardent climb
The Nubian mountains, and the secret bounds
Of jealous Abyssinia boldly pierce.
Thou art no ruffian, who beneath the mask
Of social commerce com'st to rob their wealth ;
No holy fury thou, blaspheming Heaven,
With consecrated steel to stab their peace,
And through the land, yet red from civil wounds,
To spread the purple tyranny of Rome.
Thou, like the harmless bee, may'st freely range
From mead to mead bright with exalted flowers,
From jasmine grove to grove may'st wander gay,

Through palmy shades and aromatic woods,
That grace the plains, invest the peopled hills,
And up the more than Alpine mountains wave.
There on the breezy summit, spreading fair
For many a league ; or on stupendous rocks,
That from the sun-redoubling valley lift,
Cool to the middle air, their lawny tops ;
Where palaces, and fanes, and villas rise ;
And gardens smile around, and cultured fields ;
And fountains gush ; and careless herds and flocks
Securely stray ; a world within itself,
Disdaining all assault : there let me draw
Ethereal soul, there drink reviving gales,
Profusely breathing from the spicy groves,
And vales of fragrance ; there at distance hear
The roaring floods and cataracts, that sweep
From disembowelled earth the virgin gold ;
And o'er the varied landscape, restless, rove,
Fervent with life of every fairer kind :
A land of wonders ! which the sun still eyes
With ray direct, as of the lovely realm
Enamoured, and delighting there to dwell.

How changed the scene ! In blazing height of noon,
The sun, oppressed, is plunged in thickest gloom.
Still horror reigns, a dreary twilight round,
Of struggling night and day malignant mixed.
For to the hot equator crowding fast,
Where, highly rarefied, the yielding air
Admits their stream, incessant vapours roll,
Amazing clouds on clouds continual heaped ;
Or whirled tempestuous by the gusty wind,
Or silent borne along, heavy, and slow,
With the big stores of steaming oceans charged.
Meantime, amid these upper seas, condensed
Around the cold ærial mountain's brow,
And by conflicting winds together dashed,
The thunder holds his black tremendous throne ;

From cloud to cloud the rending lightnings rage ;
 Till, in the furious elemental war
 Dissolved, the whole precipitated mass
 Unbroken floods and solid torrents pours.

The treasures these, hid from the bounded search
 Of ancient knowledge ; whence, with annual pomp,
 Rich king of floods ! o'erflows the swelling Nile.

From his two springs, in Gojam's sunny realm,
 Pure-welling out, he through the lucid lake
 Of fair Dambea rolls his infant stream.

There, by the Naiads nursed, he sports away
 His playful youth, amid the fragrant isles,
 That with unfading verdure smile around.

Ambitious, thence the manly river breaks ;
 And gathering many a flood, and copious fed
 With all the mellowed treasures of the sky,
 Winds in progressive majesty along :

Through splendid kingdoms now devolves his maze,
 Now wanders wild o'er solitary tracts
 Of life-deserted sand ; till glad to quit
 The joyless desert, down the Nubian rocks,
 From thundering steep to steep, he pours his urn,
 And Egypt joys beneath the spreading wave.

His brother Niger too, and all the floods
 In which the full-formed maids of Afric lave
 Their jetty limbs ; and all that from the tract
 Of woody mountains stretched through gorgeous Ind
 Fall on Cor'mandel's coast, or Malabar ;
 From Menam's orient stream, that nightly shines
 With insect lamps, to where Aurora sheds
 On Indus' smiling banks the rosy shower :
 All, at this bounteous season, ope their urns,
 And pour untoiling harvest o'er the land.

Nor less thy world, Columbus, drinks, refreshed,
 The lavish moisture of the melting year.
 Wide o'er his isles the branching Oronoque
 Rolls a brown deluge, and the native drives

To dwell aloft on life-sufficing trees,
 At once his dome, his robe, his food, and arms.
 Swelled by a thousand streams, impetuous hurled
 From all the roaring Andes, huge descends
 The mighty Orellana. Scarce the Muse
 Dares stretch her wing o'er this enormous mass
 Of rushing water ; scarce she dares attempt
 The sea-like Plata, to whose dread expanse,
 Continuous depth, and wondrous length of course,
 Our floods are rills. With unabated force,
 In silent dignity they sweep along,
 And traverse realms unknown, and blooming wilds,
 And fruitful deserts, worlds of solitude,
 Where the sun smiles, and seasons teem in vain,
 Unseen, and unenjoyed. Forsaking these,
 O'er peopled plains they fair-diffusive flow,
 And many a nation feed, and circle safe,
 In their soft bosom, many a happy isle ;
 The seat of blameless Pan, yet undisturbed
 By Christian crimes and Europe's cruel sons.
 Thus pouring on they proudly seek the deep,
 Whose vanquished tide, recoiling from the shock,
 Yields to this liquid weight of half the globe,
 And Ocean trembles for his green domain.

But what avails this wondrous waste of wealth—
 This gay profusion of luxurious bliss—
 This pomp of Nature ? what their balmy meads,
 Their powerful herbs, and Ceres void of pain ?
 By vagrant birds dispersed, and wafting winds,
 What their unplanted fruits ? what the cool draughts,
 The ambrosial food, rich gums, and spicy health,
 Their forests yield ? Their toiling insects what ?
 Their silky pride, and vegetable robes ?
 Ah ! what avail their fatal treasures, hid
 Deep in the bowels of the pitying earth,
 Golconda's gems, and sad Potosi's mines,
 Where dwelt the gentlest children of the sun ?

What all that Afric's golden rivers roll,
 Her odorous woods, and shining ivory stores?
 Ill-fated race! the softening arts of Peace,
 Whate'er the humanising Muses teach;
 The godlike wisdom of the tempered breast;
 Progressive truth, the patient force of thought;
 Investigation calm, whose silent powers
 Command the world; the light that leads to Heaven;
 Kind equal rule, the government of laws,
 And all-protecting Freedom, which alone
 Sustains the name and dignity of man:—
 These are not theirs. The parent sun himself
 Seems o'er this world of slaves to tyrannise;
 And, with oppressive ray the roseate bloom
 Of beauty blasting, gives the gloomy hue,
 And feature gross: or worse, to ruthless deeds,
 Mad jealousy, blind rage, and fell revenge,
 Their fervid spirit fires. Love dwells not there,
 The soft regards, the tenderness of life,
 The heart-shed tear, th' ineffable delight
 Of sweet humanity: these court the beam
 Of milder climes; in selfish fierce desire,
 And the wild fury of voluptuous sense,
 There lost. The very brute-creation there
 This rage partakes, and burns with horrid fire.

Lo! the green serpent, from his dark abode,
 Which e'en Imagination fears to tread,
 At noon forth-issuing, gathers up his train
 In orbs immense, then, darting out anew,
 Seeks the refreshing fount, by which, diffused,
 He throws his folds: and while, with threatening tongue
 And deathful jaws erect, the monster curls
 His flaming crest, all other thirst appalled,
 Or shivering flies, or checked at distance stands,
 Nor dares approach. But still more direful he,
 The small close-lurking minister of fate,
 Whose high-concocted venom through the veins

A rapid lightning darts, arresting swift
The vital current. Formed to humble man,
This child of vengeful Nature! there, sublimed
To fearless lust of blood, the savage race
Roam, licensed by the shading hour of guilt,
And foul misdeed, when the pure day has shut
His sacred eye. The tiger darting fierce
Impetuous on the prey his glance has doomed ;
The lively-shining leopard, speckled o'er
With many a spot, the beauty of the waste ;
And, scorning all the taming arts of man,
The keen hyena, fellest of the fell ;
These, rushing from th' inhospitable woods
Of Mauritania, or the tufted isles
That verdant rise amid the Lybian wild,
Innumerable glare around their shaggy king,
Majestic, stalking o'er the printed sand ;
And, with imperious and repeated roars,
Demand their fated food. The fearful flocks
Crowd near the guardian swain ; the nobler herds,
Where round their lordly bull, in rural ease,
They ruminating lie, with horror hear
The coming rage. Th' awakened village starts ;
And to her fluttering breast the mother strains
Her thoughtless infant. From the pirate's den,
Or stern Morocco's tyrant fang, escaped,
The wretch half wishes for his bonds again ;
While, uproar all, the wilderness resounds,
From Atlas eastward to the frightened Nile.

Unhappy he, who from the first of joys,
Society, cut off, is left alone
Amid this world of death. Day after day,
Sad on the jutting eminence he sits,
And views the main that ever toils below ;
Still fondly forming in the farthest verge,
Where the round ether mixes with the wave,
Ships, dim-discovered, dropping from the clouds ;

At evening, to the setting sun he turns
A mournful eye, and down his dying heart
Sinks helpless ; while the wonted roar is up,
And hiss continual through the tedious night.
Yet here, e'en here, into these black abodes
Of monsters, unappalled, from stooping Rome,
And guilty Cæsar, Liberty retired,
Her Cato following through Numidian wilds:
Disdainful of Campania's gentle plains,
And all the green delights Ausonia pours,
When for them she must bend the servile knee,
And fawning take the splendid robber's boon.

Nor stop the terrors of these regions here.
Commissioned demons oft, angels of wrath,
Let loose the raging elements. Breathed hot
From all the boundless furnace of the sky,
And the wide glittering waste of burning sand,
A suffocating wind the pilgrim smites
With instant death. Patient of thirst and toil,
Son of the desert ! e'en the camel feels,
Shot through his withered heart, the fiery blast.
Or from the black-red ether, bursting broad,
Sallies the sudden whirlwind. Straight the sands,
Commoved around, in gathering eddies play ;
Nearer and nearer still they darkening come ;
Till, with the general all-involving storm
Swept up, the whole continuous wilds arise ;
And by their noon-day fount dejected thrown,
Or sunk at night in sad disastrous sleep,
Beneath descending hills the caravan
Is buried deep. In Cairo's crowded streets
Th' impatient merchant, wondering, waits in vain,
And Mecca saddens at the long delay.

But chief at sea, whose every flexile wave
Obeys the blast, the aërial tumult swells.
In the dread ocean, undulating wide,
Beneath the radiant line that girts the globe,

The circling Typhon, whirled from point to point,
Exhausting all the rage of all the sky,
And dire Ecnephia, reign. Amid the heavens,
Falsely serene, deep in a cloudy speck
Compressed, the mighty tempest brooding dwells ;
Of no regard save to the skilful eye,
Fiery and foul, the small prognostic hangs
Aloft, or on the promontory's brow
Musters its force. A faint deceitful calm,
A fluttering gale, the demon sends before,
To tempt the spreading sail. Then down at once,
Precipitant, descends a mingled mass
Of roaring winds, and flame, and rushing floods.
In wild amazement fixed the sailor stands.
Art is too slow : by rapid fate oppressed,
His broad-winged vessel drinks the whelming tide,
Hid in the bosom of the black abyss.
With such mad seas the daring Gama fought,
For many a day, and many a dreadful night,
Incessant, labouring round the stormy Cape ;
By bold ambition led, and bolder thirst
Of gold. For then from ancient gloom emerged
The rising world of trade : the Genius, then,
Of navigation, that, in hopeless sloth,
Had slumbered on the vast Atlantic deep,
For idle ages, starting, heard at last
The Lusitanian prince ; who, Heaven-inspired,
To love of useful glory roused mankind,
And in unbounded commerce mixed the world.

Increasing still the terrors of these storms,
His jaws horrific armed with threefold fate,
Here dwells the direful shark. Lured by the scent
Of steaming crowds, of rank disease, and death,
Behold ! he rushing cuts the briny flood,
Swift as the gale can bear the ship along ;
And, from the partners of that cruel trade,
Which spoils unhappy Guinea of her sons,

Demands his share of prey, demands themselves.
The stormy fates descend : one death involves
Tyrants and slaves ; when straight, their mangled limbs
Crashing at once, he dyes the purple seas
With gore, and riots in the vengeful meal.

When o'er this world, by equinoctial rains
Flooded immense, looks out the joyless sun,
And draws the copious stream : from swampy fens,
Where putrefaction into life ferments,
And breathes destructive myriads ; or from woods,
Impenetrable shades, recesses foul,
In vapours rank and blue corruption wrapt,
Whose gloomy horrors yet no desperate foot
Has ever dared to pierce ; then, wasteful, forth
Walks the dire Power of pestilent disease.

A thousand hideous fiends her course attend,
Sick Nature blasting, and to heartless woe,
And feeble desolation, casting down
The towering hopes and all the pride of man.
Such as, of late, at Carthagena quenched
The British fire. You, gallant Vernon, saw
The miserable scene ; you, pitying, saw
To infant weakness sunk the warrior's arm ;
Saw the deep-racking pang, the ghastly form,
The lip pale-quivering, and the beamless eye
No more with ardour bright : you heard the groans
Of agonising ships, from shore to shore ;
Heard nightly plunged amid the sullen waves
The frequent corse ; while on each other fixed,
In sad presage, the blank assistants seemed,
Silent, to ask, whom Fate would next demand.

What need I mention those inclement skies,
Where, frequent o'er the sickening city, Plague,
The fiercest child of Nemesis divine,
Descends ? From Ethiopia's poisoned woods,
From stifled Cairo's filth, and fetid fields
With locust-armies putrifying heaped,

This great destroyer sprung. Her awful rage
 The brutes escape : man is her destined prey,
 Intemperate man ! and o'er his guilty domes
 She draws a close incumbent cloud of death ;
 Uninterrupted by the living winds,
 Forbid to blow a wholesome breeze ; and stained
 With many a mixture by the sun, suffused,
 Of angry aspect. Princely wisdom, then,
 Dejects his watchful eye ; and from the hand
 Of feeble Justice, ineffectual, drop
 The sword and balance : mute the voice of joy,
 And hushed the clamour of the busy world.
 Empty the streets, with uncouth verdure clad ;
 Into the worst of deserts sudden turned
 The cheerful haunt of men : unless escaped
 From the doomed house, where matchless horror reigns,
 Shut up by barbarous fear, the smitten wretch,
 With frenzy wild, breaks loose ; and, loud to Heaven
 Screaming, the dreadful policy arraigns,
 Inhuman, and unwise. The sullen door,
 Yet uninfected, on its cautious hinge
 Fearing to turn, abhors society :
 Dependants, friends, relations, Love himself,
 Savaged by woe, forget the tender tie,
 The sweet engagement of the feeling heart.
 But vain their selfish care : the circling sky,
 The wide enlivening air, is full of fate ;
 And, struck by turns, in solitary pangs
 They fall, unblest, untended, and unmourned.
 Thus o'er the prostrate city black Despair
 Extends her raven wing : while to complete
 The scene of desolation, stretched around,
 The grim guards stand, denying all retreat,
 And give the flying wretch a better death.

Much yet remains unsung : the rage intense
 Of brazen-vaulted skies, of iron fields,
 Where drought and famine starve the blasted year :

Fired by the torch of noon to tenfold rage,
 The infuriate hill that shoots the pillared flame,
 And, roused within the subterranean world,
 Th' expanding earthquake, that resistless shakes
 Aspiring cities from their solid base,
 And buries mountains in the flaming gulf.
 But 'tis enough ; return, my vagrant Muse :
 A nearer scene of horror calls thee home.

Behold, slow-settling o'er the lurid grove,
 Unusual darkness broods, and, growing, gains
 The full possession of the sky, surcharged
 With wrathful vapour, from the secret beds,
 Where sleep the mineral generations, drawn.
 Thence nitre, sulphur, and the fiery spume
 Of fat bitumen, steaming on the day,
 With various-tinctured trains of latent flame,
 Pollute the sky, and in yon baleful cloud,
 A reddening gloom, a magazine of fate,
 Ferment ; till, by the touch ethereal roused,
 The dash of clouds, or irritating war
 Of fighting winds, while all is calm below,
 They furious spring. A boding silence reigns,
 Dread through the dun expanse ; save the dull sound
 That from the mountain, previous to the storm,
 Rolls o'er the muttering earth, disturbs the flood,
 And shakes the forest-leaf without a breath.
 Prone, to the lowest vale, the aërial tribes
 Descend : the tempest-loving raven scarce
 Dares wing the dubious dusk. In rueful gaze
 The cattle stand, and on the scowling heavens
 Cast a deploring eye ; by man forsook,
 Who to the crowded cottage hies him fast,
 Or seeks the shelter of the downward cave.
 'Tis listening fear, and dumb amazement all :
 When to the startled eye the sudden glance
 Appears far south, eruptive through the cloud ;
 And following slower, in explosion vast,

The Thunder raises his tremendous voice.
At first, heard solemn o'er the verge of Heaven,
The tempest growls ; but as it nearer comes,
And rolls its awful burden on the wind,
The lightnings flash a larger curve, and more
The noise astounds : till over head a sheet
Of livid flame discloses wide ; then shuts,
And opens wider ; shuts and opens still
Expansive, wrapping ether in a blaze.
Follows the loosened aggravated roar,
Enlarging, deepening, mingling ; peal on peal
Crushed horrible, convulsing heaven and earth.

Down comes a deluge of sonorous hail,
Or prone-descending rain. Wide-rent, the clouds
Pour a whole flood ; and yet, its flame unquenched,
Th' unconquerable lightning struggles through,
Ragged and fierce, or in red whirling balls,
And fires the mountains with redoubled rage.
Black from the stroke, above, the smouldering pine
Stands a sad shattered trunk ; and, stretched below,
A lifeless group the blasted cattle lie :
Here the soft flocks, with that same harmless look
They wore alive, and ruminating still
In Fancy's eye ; and there the frowning bull,
And ox half-raised. Struck on the castled cliff,
The venerable tower and spiry fane
Resign their aged pride. The gloomy woods
Start at the flash, and from their deep recess,
Wide-flaming out, their trembling inmates shake.
Amid Carnarvon's mountains rages loud
The repercussive roar : with mighty crash,
Into the flashing deep, from the rude rocks
Of Penmanmaur heaped hideous to the sky,
Tumble the smitten cliffs : and Snowden's peak,
Dissolving, instant yields his wintry load.
Far seen, the heights of heathy Cheviot blaze,
And Thulé bellows through her utmost isles.

Guilt hears appalled, with deeply-troubled thought ;
 And yet not always on the guilty head
 Descends the fated flash. Young Celadon
 And his Amelia were a matchless pair ;
 With equal virtue formed, and equal grace,
 The same, distinguished by their sex alone :
 Hers, the mild lustre of the blooming morn,
 And his, the radiance of the risen day.

They loved : but such the guileless passion was,
 As in the dawn of time informed the heart
 Of innocence and undissembling truth.
 'Twas friendship, heightened by the mutual wish ;
 Th' enchanting hope, and sympathetic glow,
 Beamed from the mutual eye. Devoting all
 To love, each was to each a dearer self ;
 Supremely happy in th' awakened power
 Of giving joy. Alone, amid the shades,
 Still in harmonious intercourse they lived
 The rural day, and talked the flowing heart,
 Or sighed and looked unutterable things.

So passed their life, a clear united stream,
 By care unruffled ; till, in evil hour,
 The tempest caught them on the tender walk,
 Heedless how far and where its mazes strayed,
 While, with each other blest, creative love
 Still bade eternal Eden smile around.
 Presaging instant fate, her bosom heaved
 Unwonted sighs, and, stealing oft a look
 Of the big gloom, on Celadon her eye
 Fell tearful, wetting her disordered cheek.
 In vain assuring love, and confidence
 In Heaven, repressed her fear ; it grew, and shook
 Her frame near dissolution. He perceived
 Th' unequal conflict, and, as angels look
 On dying saints, his eyes compassion shed,
 With love illumined high. " Fear not," he said,
 " Sweet innocence ! thou stranger to offence,

And inward storm! He, who yon skies involves
 In frowns of darkness, ever smiles on thee
 With kind regard. O'er thee the secret shaft
 That wastes at midnight, or th' undreaded hour
 Of noon, flies harmless; and that very voice,
 Which thunders terror through the guilty heart,
 With tongues of seraphs whispers peace to thine.
 'Tis safety to be near thee sure, and thus
 To clasp perfection!" From his void embrace,
 (Mysterious Heaven!) that moment, to the ground,
 A blackened corse, was struck the beauteous maid.
 But who can paint the lover, as he stood,
 Pierced by severe amazement, hating life,
 Speechless, and fixed in all the death of woe!
 So (faint resemblance!) on the marble tomb,
 The well-dissembled mourner stooping stands,
 For ever silent, and for ever sad.

As from the face of Heaven the shattered clouds
 Tumultuous rove, th' interminable sky
 Sublimely swells, and o'er the world expands
 A purer azure. Through the lightened air
 A higher lustre and a clearer calm,
 Diffusive, tremble; while, as if in sign
 Of danger past, a glittering robe of joy,
 Set off abundant by the yellow ray,
 Invests the fields, and Nature smiles revived.

'Tis beauty all, and grateful song around,
 Joined to the low of kine, and numerous bleat
 Of flocks thick-nibbling through the clovered vale.
 And shall the hymn be marred by thankless man,
 Most-favoured! who with voice articulate
 Should lead the chorus of this lower world;
 Shall he, so soon forgetful of the Hand
 That hushed the thunder, and serenely the sky,
 Extinguished feel that spark the tempest waked,
 That sense of powers exceeding far his own,
 Ere yet his feeble heart has lost its fears?

Cheered by the milder beam, the sprightly youth
Speeds to the well-known pool, whose crystal depth
A sandy bottom shows. Awhile he stands
Gazing th' inverted landscape, half afraid
To meditate the blue profound below ;
Then plunges headlong down the circling flood.
His ebon tresses and his rosy cheek
Instant emerge ; and through th' obedient wave,
At each short breathing by his lip repelled,
With arms and legs according well, he makes,
As humour leads, an easy-winding path ;
While, from his polished sides, a dewy light
Effuses on the pleased spectators round.

This is the purest exercise of health,
The kind refresher of the summer-heats ;
Nor, when cold Winter keens the brightening flood,
Would I, weak-shivering, linger on the brink.
Thus life redoubles, and is oft preserved,
By the bold swimmer, in the swift illapse
Of accident disastrous. Hence the limbs
Knit into force ; and the same Roman arm,
That rose victorious o'er the conquered earth,
First learned, while tender, to subdue the wave.
E'en from the body's purity the mind
Receives a secret sympathetic aid.

Close in the covert of a hazel copse,
Where, winded into pleasing solitudes,
Runs out the rambling dale, young Damon sat,
Pensive, and pierced with love's delightful pangs.
There to the stream that down the distant rocks
Hoarse-murmuring fell, and plaintive breeze that played
Among the bending willows, falsely he
Of Musidora's cruelty complained.
She felt his flame ; but deep within her breast,
In bashful coyness, or in maiden pride,
The soft return concealed, save when it stole
In side-long glances from her downcast eye,

Or from her swelling soul in stifled sighs.
Touched by the scene, no stranger to his vows,
He framed a melting lay, to try her heart ;
And, if an infant passion struggled there,
To call that passion forth. Thrice happy swain !
A lucky chance, that oft decides the fate
Of mighty monarchs, then decided thine.
For lo ! conducted by the laughing Loves,
This cool retreat his Musidora sought :
Warm in her cheek the sultry season glowed ;
And, robed in loose array, she came to bathe
Her fervent limbs in the refreshing stream.
What shall he do ? In sweet confusion lost,
And dubious flutterings, he awhile remained :
A pure ingenuous elegance of soul,
A delicate refinement, known to few,
Perplexed his breast, and urged him to retire :
But love forbade. Ye prudes in virtue, say,
Say, ye severest, what would you have done ?
Meantime, this fairer nymph than ever blest
Arcadian stream, with timid eye around
The banks surveying, stripped her beauteous limbs,
To taste the lucid coolness of the flood.
Ah then ! not Paris on the piny top
Of Ida panted stronger, when aside
The rival goddesses the veil divine
Cast unconfined, and gave him all their charms,
Than, Damon, thou ; as from the snowy leg,
And slender foot, th' inverted silk she drew ;
As the soft touch dissolved the virgin zone :
And, through the parting robe, th' alternate breast,
With youth wild-throbbing, on thy lawless gaze
In full luxuriance rose. But, desperate youth,
How durst thou risk the soul-distracting view,
As from her naked limbs, of glowing white,
Harmonious swelled by Nature's finest hand,
In folds loose-floating fell the fainter lawn ;

And fair-exposed she stood, shrunk from herself,
With fancy blushing, at the doubtful breeze
Alarmed, and starting like the fearful fawn ?
Then to the flood she rushed ; the parted flood
Its lovely guest with closing waves received ;
And every beauty softening, every grace
Flushing anew, a mellow lustre shed :
As shines the lily through the crystal mild ;
Or as the rose amid the morning dew,
Fresh from Aurora's hand, more sweetly glows.
While thus she wantoned, now beneath the wave
But ill concealed, and now with streaming locks,
That half embraced her in a humid veil,
Rising again, the latent Damon drew
Such maddening draughts of beauty to the soul,
As for awhile o'erwhelmed his raptured thought
With luxury too daring. Checked, at last,
By love's respectful modesty, he deemed
The theft profane, if aught profane to love
Can e'er be deemed ; and, struggling from the shade,
With headlong hurry fled : but first these lines,
Traced by his ready pencil, on the bank
With trembling hand he threw. " Bathe on, my fair,
Yet unbeheld, save by the sacred eye
Of faithful love : I go to guard thy haunt,
To keep from thy recess each vagrant foot,
And each licentious eye." With wild surprise,
As if to marble struck, devoid of sense,
A stupid moment motionless she stood :
So stands the statue * that enchants the world,
So bending tries to veil the matchless boast,
The mingled beauties of exulting Greece.
Recovering, swift she flew to find those robes
Which blissful Eden knew not ; and, arrayed
In careless haste, th' alarming paper snatched.

* The Venus de' Medici.

But, when her Damon's well-known hand she saw,
 Her terrors vanished, and a softer train
 Of mixed emotions, hard to be described,
 Her sudden bosom seized : shame void of guilt,
 The charming blush of innocence, esteem,
 And admiration of her lover's flame,
 By modesty exalted : e'en a sense
 Of self-approving beauty stole across
 Her busy thought. At length a tender calm
 Hushed by degrees the tumult of her soul ;
 And on the spreading beech, that o'er the stream
 Incumbent hung, she with the silvan pen
 Of rural lovers this confession carved,
 Which soon her Damon kissed with weeping joy :
 " Dear youth, sole judge of what these verses mean,
 By fortune too much favoured, but by love,
 Alas ! not favoured less, be still as now
 Discreet : the time may come you need not fly."

The sun has lost his rage : his downward orb
 Shoots nothing now but animating warmth,
 And vital lustre ; that, with various ray,
 Lights up the clouds, those beauteous robes of Heaven,
 Incessant rolled into romantic shapes,
 The dream of waking Fancy. Broad below,
 Covered with ripening fruits, and swelling fast
 Into the perfect year, the pregnant earth
 And all her tribes rejoice. Now the soft hour
 Of walking comes : for him who lonely loves
 To seek the distant hills, and there converse
 With Nature ; there to harmonise his heart,
 And in pathetic song to breathe around
 The harmony to others. Social friends,
 Attuned to happy unison of soul ;
 To those exalting eye a fairer world,
 Whom the vulgar never had a glimpse,
 Whose charms ; whose minds are richly fraught
 With philosophic stores, superior light ;

And in whose breast, enthusiastic, burns
 Virtue, the sons of interest deem romance ;
 Now called abroad enjoy the falling day :
 Now to the verdant Portico of woods,
 To Nature's vast Lyceum forth they walk ;
 By that kind School where no proud master reigns,
 The full free converse of the friendly heart,
 Improving and improved. Now from the world,
 Sacred to sweet retirement, lovers steal,
 And pour their souls in transport, which the sire
 Of love approving hears, and calls it good.
 Which way, Amanda, shall we bend our course ?
 The choice perplexes. Wherefore should we choose ?
 All is the same with thee. Say, shall we wind
 Along the streams ? or walk the smiling mead ?
 Or court the forest-glades ? or wander wild
 Among the waving harvests ? or ascend,
 While radiant Summer opens all its pride,
 Thy hill, delightful Shene * ? Here let us sweep
 The boundless landscape : now the raptured eye,
 Exulting, swift to huge Augusta send,
 Now to the Sister-Hills † that skirt her plain,
 To lofty Harrow now, and now to where
 Majestic Windsor lifts his princely brow.
 In lovely contrast to this glorious view,
 Calmly magnificent, then will we turn
 To where the silver Thames first rural grows.
 There let the feasted eye unwearied stray :
 Luxurious, there, rove through the pendent woods
 That nodding hang o'er Harrington's retreat :
 And, stooping thence to Ham's embowering walks,
 Beneath whose shades, in spotless peace retired,
 With Her the pleasing partner of his heart,
 The worthy Queensberry yet laments his Gay,

* The old name of Richmond, signifying, in Saxon, *shining* or *splendour*.

† Highgate and Hampstead.

And polished Cornbury wooes the willing Muse,
 Slow let us trace the matchless vale of Thames ;
 Fair winding-up to where the muses haunt
 In Twit'nam's bowers, and for their Pope implore
 The healing God * ; to royal Hampton's pile,
 To Clermont's terraced height, and Esher's groves,
 Where in the sweetest solitude, embraced
 By the soft windings of the silent Mole,
 From courts and senates Pelham finds repose.
 Enchanting vale ! beyond whate'er the Muse
 Has of Achaia or Hesperia sung !
 O vale of bliss ! O softly-swelling hills !
 On which the Power of Cultivation lies,
 And joys to see the wonders of his toil.

Heavens ! what a goodly prospect spreads around,
 Of hills, and dales, and woods, and lawns, and spires,
 And glittering towns, and gilded streams, till all
 The stretching landscape into smoke decays !
 Happy Britannia ! where the Queen of Arts,
 Inspiring vigour, Liberty abroad
 Walks, unconfined, e'en to thy farthest cots,
 And scatters plenty with unsparing hand.

Rich is thy soil, and merciful thy clime ;
 Thy streams unfailing in the Summer's drought ;
 Unmatched thy guardian-oaks ; thy valleys float
 With golden waves ; and on thy mountains flocks
 Bleat numberless ; while, roving round their sides,
 Bellow the blackening herds in lusty droves.
 Beneath, thy meadows glow, and rise unquelled
 Against the mower's scythe. On every hand
 Thy villas shine. Thy country teems with wealth ;
 And property assures it to the swain,
 Pleased, and unwearied, in his guarded toil.

Full are thy cities with the sons of Art ;
 And trade and joy, in every busy street,

* In his last sickness.

Mingling are heard : e'en Drudgery himself,
As at the car he sweats, or dusty hews
The palace-stone, looks gay. Thy crowded ports,
Where rising masts an endless prospect yield,
With labour burn, and echo to the shouts
Of hurried sailor, as he hearty waves
His last adieu, and, loosening every sheet,
Resigns the spreading vessel to the wind.

Bold, firm, and graceful, are thy generous youth,
By hardship sinewed, and by danger fired,
Scattering the nations where they go ; and first
Or on the listed plain, or stormy seas.

Mild are thy glories too, as o'er the plains
Of thriving peace thy thoughtful sires preside ;
In genius, and substantial learning, high ;
For every virtue, every worth, renowned ;
Sincere, plain-hearted, hospitable, kind ;
Yet like the mustering thunder when provoked,
The dread of tyrants, and the sole resource
Of those that under grim oppression groan.

Thy sons of Glory many ! Alfred thine,
In whom the splendour of heroic war,
And more heroic peace, when governed well,
Combine ; whose hallowed name the Virtues saint,
And his own Muses love ; the best of kings !
With him thy Edwards and thy Henries shine,
Names dear to Fame ; the first who deep impressed
On haughty Gaul the terror of thy arms,
That awes her genius still. In statesmen thou,
And patriots, fertile. Thine a steady More,
Who, with a generous though mistaken zeal,
Withstood a brutal tyrant's useful rage,
Like Cato firm, like Aristides just,
Like rigid Cincinnatus nobly poor,
A dauntless soul erect, who smiled on death.
Frugal and wise, a Walsingham is thine ;
A Drake, who made thee mistress of the deep,

And bore thy name in thunder round the world.
 Then flamed thy spirit high ; but who can speak
 The numerous worthies of the Maiden Reign ?
 In Raleigh mark their every glory mixed ;
 Raleigh, the scourge of Spain ! whose breast with all
 The sage, the patriot, and the hero burned ;
 Nor sunk his vigour, when a coward-reign
 The warrior fettered, and at last resigned,
 To glut the vengeance of a vanquished foe.
 Then, active still and unrestrained, his mind
 Explored the vast extent of ages past,
 And with his prison-hours enriched the world ;
 Yet found no times, in all the long research,
 So glorious, or so base, as those he proved,
 In which he conquered, and in which he bled.
 Nor can the Muse the gallant Sidney pass,
 The plume of war ! with early laurels crowned,
 The lover's myrtle, and the poet's bay.
 A Hampden too is thine, illustrious land !
 Wise, strenuous, firm, of unsubmitting soul,
 Who stemmed the torrent of a downward age
 To slavery prone, and bade thee rise again
 In all thy native pomp of freedom bold.
 Bright, at his call, thy Age of Men effulged,
 Of men on whom late time a kindling eye
 Shall turn, and tyrants tremble while they read.
 Bring every sweetest flower, and let me strew
 The grave where Russel lies ; whose tempered blood,
 With calmest cheerfulness for thee resigned,
 Stained the sad annals of a giddy reign ;
 Aiming at lawless power, though meanly sunk
 In loose inglorious luxury. With him
 His friend, the British Cassius*, fearless bled ;
 Of high determined spirit, roughly brave,
 By ancient learning to the enlightened love

* Algernon Sidney.

Of ancient freedom warmed. Fair thy renown
In awful sages and in noble bards ;
Soon as the light of dawning Science spread
Her orient ray, and waked the Muses' song.
Thine is a Bacon ; hapless in his choice,
Unfit to stand the civil storm of state,
And through the smooth barbarity of courts,
With firm but pliant virtue, forward still
To urge his course : him for the studious shade
Kind Nature formed, deep, comprehensive, clear,
Exact, and elegant ; in one rich soul
Plato, the Stagyrice, and Tully, joined.
The great deliverer he ! who from the gloom
Of cloistered monks, and jargon-teaching schools,
Led forth the true Philosophy, there long
Held in the magic chain of words and forms,
And definitions void : he led her forth,
Daughter of Heaven ! that slow-ascending still,
Investigating sure the chain of things,
With radiant finger points to Heaven again.
The generous Ashley* thine, the friend of man ;
Who scanned his nature with a brother's eye,
His weakness prompt to shade, to raise his aim,
To touch the finer movements of the mind,
And with the moral beauty charm the heart.
Why need I name thy Boyle, whose pious search
Amid the dark recesses of his works
The great Creator sought ? And why thy Locke,
Who made the whole internal world his own ?
Let Newton, pure intelligence, whom God
To mortals lent, to trace His boundless works
From laws sublimely simple, speak thy fame
In all philosophy. For lofty sense,
Creative fancy, and inspection keen
Through the deep windings of the human heart,

* Anthony Ashley Cooper, earl of Shaftesbury.

Is not wild Shakspeare thine and Nature's boast ?
Is not each great, each amiable Muse
Of classic ages in thy Milton met ?
A genius universal as his theme,
Astonishing as Chaos, as the bloom
Of blowing Eden fair, as Heaven sublime ?
Nor shall my verse that elder bard forget,
The gentle Spenser, Fancy's pleasing son ;
Who, like a copious river, poured his song
O'er all the mazes of enchanted ground :
Nor thee, his ancient master, laughing sage,
Chaucer, whose native manners-painting verse,
Well-moralised, shines through the Gothic cloud
Of time and language o'er thy genius thrown.

May my song soften, as thy daughters I,
Britannia, hail ! for beauty is their own,
The feeling heart, simplicity of life,
And elegance, and taste : the faultless form,
Shaped by the hand of Harmony ; the cheek,
Where the live crimson, through the native white
Soft-shooting, o'er the face diffuses bloom,
And every nameless grace ; the parted lip,
Like the red rose-bud moist with morning-dew,
Breathing delight ; and, under flowing jet,
Or sunny ringlets, or of circling brown,
The neck slight-shaded, and the swelling breast ;
The look resistless, piercing to the soul,
And by the soul informed, when dressed in love
She sits high-smiling in the conscious eye.

Island of bliss ! amid the subject seas,
That thunder round thy rocky coasts, set up,
At once the wonder, terror, and delight,
Of distant nations, whose remotest shores
Can soon be shaken by thy naval arm ;
Not to be shook thyself, but all assaults
Baffling, as thy hoar cliffs the loud sea-wave.

O Thou ! by whose Almighty nod the scale

Of empire rises, or alternate falls,
 Send forth the saving Virtues round the land,
 In bright patrol : white Peace, and social Love ;
 The tender-looking Charity, intent
 On gentle deeds, and shedding tears through smiles ;
 Undaunted Truth, and Dignity of mind ;
 Courage composed, and keen ; sound Temperance,
 Healthful in heart and look ; clear Chastity,
 With blushes reddening as she moves along,
 Disordered at the deep regard she draws ;
 Rough Industry ; Activity untired,
 With copious life informed, and all awake ;
 While in the radiant front superior shines
 That first paternal virtue, Public Zeal ;
 Who throws o'er all an equal wide survey,
 And, ever musing on the common weal,
 Still labours glorious with some great design.

Low walks the sun, and broadens by degrees,
 Just o'er the verge of day. The shifting clouds
 Assembled gay, a richly gorgeous train,
 In all their pomp attend his setting throne.
 Air, earth, and ocean smile immense. And now,
 As if his weary chariot sought the bowers
 Of Amphitritè, and her tending nymphs,
 (So Grecian fable sung) he dips his orb ;
 Now half-immersed, and now a golden curve,
 Gives one bright glance, then total disappears.

For ever running an enchanted round,
 Passes the day, deceitful, vain, and void ;
 As fleets the vision o'er the formful brain,
 This moment hurrying wild th' impassioned soul,
 The next in nothing lost. 'Tis so to him,
 The dreamer of this earth, an idle blank :
 A sight of horror to the cruel wretch,
 Who all day long in sordid pleasure rolled,
 Himself a useless load, has squandered vile,
 Upon his scoundrel train, what might have cheered

A drooping family of modest worth.
 But to the generous still-improving mind,
 That gives the hopeless heart to sing for joy,
 Diffusing kind beneficence around,
 Boastless, as now descends the silent dew ;
 To him the long review of ordered life
 Is inward rapture, only to be felt.

Confessed from yonder slow-extinguished clouds,
 All ether softening, sober Evening takes
 Her wonted station in the middle air ;
 A thousand shadows at her beck. First this
 She sends on earth ; then that of deeper dye
 Steals soft behind ; and then a deeper still,
 In circle following circle, gathers round,
 To close the face of things. A fresher gale
 Begins to wave the wood, and stir the stream,
 Sweeping with shadowy gust the fields of corn ;
 While the quail clamours for his running mate.
 Wide o'er the thistly lawn, as swells the breeze,
 A whitening shower of vegetable down
 Amusive floats. The kind impartial care
 Of Nature nought disdains : thoughtful to feed
 Her lowest sons, and clothe the coming year,
 From field to field the feathered seed she wings.

His folded flock secure, the shepherd home
 Hies, merry-hearted ; and by turns relieves
 The ruddy milkmaid of her brimming pail ;
 The beauty whom perhaps his witless heart,
 Unknowing what the joy-mixed anguish means,
 Sincerely loves, by that best language shown
 Of cordial glances, and obliging deeds.
 Onward they pass, o'er many a panting height,
 And valley sunk, and unfrequented ; where
 At fall of eve the fairy people throng,
 In various game, and revelry, to pass
 The summer night, as village-stories tell.
 But far about they wander from the grave

Of him, whom his ungentle fortune urged
 Against his own sad breast to lift the hand
 Of impious violence. The lonely tower
 Is also shunned ; whose mournful chambers hold,
 So night-struck Fancy dreams, the yelling ghost.

Among the crooked lanes, on every hedge,
 The glow worm lights his gems ; and, through the dark,
 A moving radiance twinkles. Evening yields
 The world to Night ; not in her winter robe
 Of massy Stygian woof, but loose arrayed
 In mantle dun. A faint erroneous ray,
 Glanced from th' imperfect surfaces of things,
 Flings half an image on the straining eye ;
 While wavering woods, and villages, and streams,
 And rocks, and mountain-tops, that long retained
 Th' ascending gleam, are all one swimming scene,
 Uncertain if beheld. Sudden to Heaven
 Thence weary vision turns, where, leading soft
 The silent hours of love, with purest ray
 Sweet Venus shines ; and from her genial rise,
 When day-light sickens till it springs afresh,
 Unrivalled reigns, the fairest lamp of Night.
 As thus th' effulgence tremulous I drink,
 With cherished gaze, the lambent lightnings shoot
 Across the sky, or horizontal dart
 In wondrous shapes : by fearful murmuring crowds
 Portentous deemed. Amid the radiant orbs,
 That more than deck, that animate the sky,
 The life-infusing suns of other worlds ;
 Lo ! from the dread immensity of space
 Returning, with accelerated course,
 The rushing comet to the sun descends ;
 And as he sinks below the shading earth,
 With awful train projected o'er the heavens,
 The guilty nations tremble. But, above
 Those superstitious horrors that enslave
 The fond sequacious herd, to mystic faith

And blind amazement prone, the enlightened few,
 Whose godlike minds Philosophy exalts,
 The glorious stranger hail. They feel a joy
 Divinely great; they in their powers exult,
 That wondrous force of thought, which mounting spurns
 This dusky spot, and measures all the sky;
 While, from his far excursion through the wilds
 Of barren ether, faithful to his time,
 They see the blazing wonder rise anew,
 In seeming terror clad, but kindly bent
 To work the will of all-sustaining Love:
 From his huge vapoury train perhaps to shake
 Reviving moisture on the numerous orbs,
 Through which his long ellipsis winds; perhaps
 To lend new fuel to declining suns,
 To light up worlds, and feed th' eternal fire.

With thee, serene Philosophy, with thee,
 And thy bright garland, let me crown my song!
 Effusive source of evidence, and truth!
 A lustre shedding o'er th' ennobled mind,
 Stronger than summer-noon; and pure as that,
 Whose mild vibrations soothe the parted soul,
 New to the dawning of celestial day.
 Hence through her nourished powers, enlarged by thee,
 She springs aloft, with elevated pride,
 Above the tangling mass of low desires,
 That bind the fluttering crowd; and, angel-winged,
 The heights of science and of virtue gains,
 Where all is calm and clear; with Nature round,
 Or in the starry regions, or th' abyss,
 To Reason's and to Fancy's eye displayed:
 The First up-tracing, from the dreary void,
 The chain of causes and effects to Him,
 The world-producing Essence, who alone
 Possesses being; while the Last receives
 The whole magnificence of heaven and earth,
 And every beauty, delicate or bold,

Obvious or more remote, with livelier sense,
Diffusive painted on the rapid mind.

Tutored by thee, hence Poetry exalts
Her voice to ages, and informs the page
With music, image, sentiment, and thought,
Never to die ! the treasure of mankind !
Their highest honour, and their truest joy !

Without thee what were unenlightened man ?
A savage roaming through the woods and wilds
In quest of prey ; and with th' unfashioned fur
Rough clad ; devoid of every finer art,
And elegance of life. Nor happiness
Domestic, mixed of tenderness and care,
Nor moral excellence, nor social bliss,
Nor guardian law were his ; nor various skill
To turn the furrow, or to guide the tool
Mechanic, nor the heaven-conducted prow
Of navigation bold, that fearless braves
The burning line or dares the wintry pole ;
Mother severe of infinite delights !
Nothing, save rapine, indolence, and guile,
And woes on woes, a still-revolving train !
Whose horrid circle had made human life
Than non-existence worse : but, taught by thee,
Ours are the plans of policy and peace,
To live like brothers, and conjunctive all
Embellish life. While thus laborious crowds
Ply the tough oar, Philosophy directs
The ruling helm ; or, like the liberal breath
Of potent Heaven, invisible, the sail
Swells out, and bears th' inferior world along.

Nor to this evanescent speck of earth
Poorly confined, the radiant tracts on high
Are her exalted range ; intent to gaze
Creation through ; and, from that full complex
Of never-ending wonders, to conceive
Of the Sole Being right, who spoke the Word,

And Nature moved complete. With inward view,
Thence on th' ideal kingdom swift she turns
Her eye ; and instant, at her powerful glance,
Th' obedient phantoms vanish or appear ;
Compound, divide, and into order shift,
Each to his rank, from plain perception up
To the fair forms of Fancy's fleeting train :
To reason then, deducing truth from truth ;
And notion quite abstract ; where first begins
The world of spirits, action all, and life
Unfettered and unmixed. But here the cloud,
(So wills eternal Providence) sits deep.
Enough for us to know that this dark state,
In wayward passions lost, and vain pursuits,
This Infancy of Being, cannot prove
The final issue of the works of God,
By boundless Love and perfect Wisdom formed,
And ever rising with the rising mind.

AUTUMN.

ARGUMENT.

THE subject proposed. Addressed to Mr. Onslow. A prospect of the fields ready for harvest. Reflections in praise of industry raised by that view. Reaping. A tale relative to it. A harvest storm. Shooting and hunting; their barbarity. A ludicrous account of fox-hunting. A view of an orchard. Wall-fruit. A vineyard. A description of fogs, frequent in the latter part of Autumn; whence a digression, inquiring into the rise of fountains and rivers. Birds of season considered, that now shift their habitation. The prodigious number of them that cover the northern and western isles of Scotland. Hence a view of the country. A prospect of the discoloured, fading woods. After a gentle dusky day, moonlight. Autumnal meteors. Morning: to which succeeds a calm, pure, sunshiny day, such as usually shuts up the season. The harvest being gathered in, the country dissolved in joy. The whole concludes with a panegyric on a philosophical country life.

AUTUMN.



CROWNED with the sickle and the wheaten sheaf,
While Autumn, nodding o'er the yellow plain,
Comes jovial on ; the Doric reed once more,
Well pleased, I tune. Whate'er the wintry frost
Nitrous prepared ; the various-blossomed Spring
Put in white promise forth ; and Summer-suns
Concocted strong, rush boundless now to view,
Full, perfect all, and swell my glorious theme.

Onslow ! the Muse, ambitious of thy name,
To grace, inspire, and dignify her song,
Would from the public voice thy gentle ear
Awhile engage. Thy noble cares she knows,
The patriot virtues that distend thy thought,
Spread on thy front, and in thy bosom glow ;
While listening senates hang upon thy tongue,
Devolving through the maze of eloquence
A roll of periods, sweeter than her song.
But she too pants for public virtue, she,
Though weak of power, yet strong in ardent will,
Whene'er her country rushes on her heart,
Assumes a bolder note, and fondly tries
To mix the patriot's with the poet's flame.

When the bright Virgin gives the beauteous days,
And Libra weighs in equal scales the year ;
From Heaven's high cope the fierce effulgence shook

Of parting Summer, a serener blue,
With golden light enlivened, wide invests
The happy world. Attemper'd suns arise,
Sweet-beamed, and shedding oft through lucid clouds
A pleasing calm ; while broad, and brown, below
Extensive harvests hang the heavy head.
Rich, silent, deep, they stand ; for not a gale
Rolls its light billows o'er the bending plain :
A calm of plenty ! till the ruffled air
Falls from its poise, and gives the breeze to blow.
Rent is the fleecy mantle of the sky ;
The clouds fly different ; and the sudden sun
By fits effulgent gilds th' illumined field,
And black by fits the shadows sweep along.
A gaily-checkered heart-expanding view,
Far as the circling eye can shoot around,
Unbounded tossing in a flood of corn.
These are thy blessings, Industry ! rough power !
Whom labour still attends, and sweat, and pain ;
Yet the kind source of every gentle art,
And all the soft civility of life :
Raiser of human kind ! by Nature cast,
Naked, and helpless, out amid the woods
And wilds, to rude inclement elements ;
With various seeds of art deep in the mind
Implanted, and profusely poured around
Materials infinite, but idle all.
Still unexerted, in the unconscious breast,
Slept the lethargic powers ; Corruption still,
Voracious, swallowed what the liberal hand
Of bounty scattered o'er the savage year :
And still the sad barbarian, roving, mixed
With beasts of prey ; or for his acorn-meal
Fought the fierce tusky boar ; a shivering wretch !
Aghast, and comfortless, when the bleak north,
With Winter charged, let the mixed tempest fly,
Hail, rain, and snow, and bitter-breathing frost :

Then to the shelter of the hut he fled ;
And the wild season, sordid, pined away.
For home he had not ; home is the resort
Of love, of joy, of peace and plenty, where,
Supporting and supported, polished friends,
And dear relations, mingle into bliss.
But this the rugged savage never felt,
E'en desolate in crowds ; and thus his days
Rolled heavy, dark, and unenjoyed along,
A waste of time ! till Industry approached,
And roused him from his miserable sloth :
His faculties unfolded ; pointed out,
Where lavish Nature the directing hand
Of Art demanded ; showed him how to raise
His feeble force by the mechanic powers,
To dig the mineral from the vaulted earth,
On what to turn the piercing rage of fire,
On what the torrent, and the gathered blast ;
Gave the tall ancient forest to his axe ;
Taught him to chip the wood, and hew the stone,
Till by degrees the finished fabric rose ;
Tore from his limbs the blood-polluted fur,
And wrapt them in the woolly vestment warm,
Or bright in glossy silk, and flowing lawn ;
With wholesome viands filled his table, poured
The generous glass around, inspired to wake
The life-refining soul of decent wit :
Nor stopped at barren bare necessity ;
But still advancing bolder, led him on
To pomp, to pleasure, elegance, and grace ;
And, breathing high ambition through his soul,
Set science, wisdom, glory, in his view,
And bade him be the Lord of all below.

Then gathering men their natural powers combined,
And formed a Public ; to the general good
Submitting, aiming, and conducting all.
For this the Patriot-Council met, the full,

The free, and fairly represented Whole ;
 For this they planned the holy guardian laws,
 Distinguished orders, animated arts,
 And, with joint force Oppression chaining, set
 Imperial Justice at the helm, yet still
 To them accountable : nor slavish dreamed
 That toiling millions must resign their weal,
 And all the honey of their search, to such
 As for themselves alone themselves have raised.

Hence every form of cultivated life
 In order set, protected, and inspired,
 Into perfection wrought. Uniting all,
 Society grew numerous, high, polite,
 And happy. Nurse of art ! the city reared
 In beauteous pride her tower-encircled head ;
 And, stretching street on street, by thousands drew,
 From twining woody haunts, or the tough yew
 To bows strong-straining, her aspiring sons.

Then Commerce brought into the public walk
 The busy merchant ; the big warehouse built ;
 Raised the strong crane ; choked up the loaded street
 With foreign plenty ; and thy stream, O Thames,
 Large, gentle, deep, majestic, king of floods !
 Chose for his grand resort. On either hand,
 Like a long wintry forest, groves of masts
 Shot up their spires ; the bellying sheet between
 Possessed the breezy void ; the sooty hulk
 Steered sluggish on ; the splendid barge along
 Rowed, regular, to harmony ; around,
 The boat, light-skimming, stretched its oary wings ;
 While deep the various voice of fervent toil
 From bank to bank increased ; whence ribbed with oak,
 To bear the British thunder, black, and bold,
 The roaring vessel rushed into the main.

Then too the pillared dome, magnific, heaved
 Its ample roof ; and Luxury within
 Poured out her glittering stores : the canvas smooth,

With glowing life protuberant, to the view
 Embodied rose ; the statue seemed to breathe,
 And soften into flesh ; beneath the touch
 Of forming art, imagination-flushed.

All is the gift of Industry; whate'er
 Exalts, embellishes, and renders life
 Delightful. Pensive Winter cheer'd by him
 Sits at the social fire, and happy hears
 Th' excluded tempest idly rave along ;
 His hardened fingers deck the gaudy Spring ;
 Without him Summer were an arid waste ;
 Nor to th' autumnal months could thus transmit
 Those full, mature, immeasurable stores,
 That, waving round, recal my wandering song.

Soon as the morning trembles o'er the sky,
 And, unperceived, unfolds the spreading day ;
 Before the ripened field the reapers stand,
 In fair array, each by the lass he loves,
 To bear the rougher part, and mitigate
 By nameless gentle offices her toil.
 At once they stoop, and swell the lusty sheaves ;
 While through their cheerful band the rural talk,
 The rural scandal, and the rural jest,
 Fly harmless, to deceive the tedious time,
 And steal unfelt the sultry hours away.
 Behind the master walks, builds up the shocks ;
 And, conscious, glancing oft on every side
 His sated eye, feels his heart heave with joy.
 The gleaners spread around, and here and there,
 Spike after spike, their scanty harvest pick.
 Be not too narrow, husbandmen ! but fling
 From the full sheaf, with charitable stealth,
 The liberal handful. Think, oh grateful think !
 How good the God of Harvest is to you ;
 Who pours abundance o'er your flowing fields ;
 While these unhappy partners of your kind
 Wide-hover round you, like the fowls of heaven,

And ask their humble dole. The various turns
Of fortune ponder ; that your sons may want
What now, with hard reluctance, faint, ye give.

The lovely young Lavinia once had friends ;
And Fortune smiled, deceitful, on her birth.
For, in her helpless years deprived of all,
Of every stay, save Innocence and Heaven,
She with her widowed mother, feeble, old,
And poor, lived in a cottage, far retired
Among the windings of a woody vale ;
By solitude and deep surrounding shades,
But more by bashful modesty, concealed.
Together thus they shunned the cruel scorn
Which virtue, sunk to poverty, would meet
From giddy passion and low-minded pride ;
Almost on Nature's common bounty fed ;
Like the gay birds that sung them to repose,
Content, and careless of to-morrow's fare.
Her form was fresher than the morning rose,
When the dew wets its leaves ; unstained and pure
As is the lily, or the mountain snow.
The modest Virtues mingled in her eyes,
Still on the ground dejected, darting all
Their humid beams into the blooming flowers :
Or when the mournful tale her mother told,
Of what her faithless fortune promised once,
Thrilled in her thought, they, like the dewy star
Of evening, shone in tears. A native grace
Sat fair-proportioned on her polished limbs,
Veiled in a simple robe, their best attire,
Beyond the pomp of dress ; for loveliness
Needs not the foreign aid of ornament,
But is, when unadorned, adorned the most.
Thoughtless of beauty, she was Beauty's self,
Recluse amid the close-embowering woods.
As in the hollow breast of Apennine,
Beneath the shelter of encircling hills,

A myrtle rises, far from human eye,
And breathes its balmy fragrance o'er the wild ;
So flourished blooming, and unseen by all,
The sweet Lavinia ; till, at length, compelled
By strong Necessity's supreme command,
With smiling patience in her looks, she went
To glean Palemon's fields. The pride of swains
Palemon was, the generous, and the rich ;
Who led the rural life in all its joy
And elegance, such as Arcadian song
Transmits from ancient uncorrupted times ;
When tyrant custom had not shackled man,
But free to follow Nature was the mode.
He then, his fancy with autumnal scenes
Amusing, chanced beside his reaper-train
To walk, when poor Lavinia drew his eye ;
Unconscious of her power, and turning quick
With unaffected blushes from his gaze :
He saw her charming, but he saw not half
The charms her downcast modesty concealed.
That very moment love and chaste desire
Sprung in his bosom, to himself unknown ;
For still the world prevailed and its dread laugh,
Which scarce the firm philosopher can scorn,
Should his heart own a gleaner in the field ;
And thus in secret to his soul he sighed :—
“ What pity ! that so delicate a form,
By beauty kindled, where enlivening sense
And more than vulgar goodness seem to dwell,
Should be devoted to the rude embrace
Of some indecent clown ! She looks, methinks,
Of old Acasto's line ; and to my mind
Recals that patron of my happy life,
From whom my liberal fortune took its rise ;
Now to the dust gone down ; his houses, lands,
And once fair-spreading family, dissolved.
'Tis said that in some lone obscure retreat,

Urged by remembrance sad, and decent pride,
 Far from those scenes which knew their better days,
 His aged widow and his daughter live,
 Whom yet my fruitless search could never find.
 Romantic wish ! would this the daughter were !”

When, strict inquiring, from herself he found
 She was the same, the daughter of his friend,
 Of bountiful Acasto ; who can speak
 The mingled passions that surprised his heart,
 And through his nerves in shivering transport ran ?
 Then blazed his smothered flame, avowed, and bold ;
 And as he viewed her, ardent, o'er and o'er,
 Love, gratitude, and pity wept at once.
 Confused, and frightened at his sudden tears,
 Her rising beauties flushed a higher bloom,
 As thus Palemon, passionate and just,
 Poured out the pious rapture of his soul :—

“ And art thou then Acasto's dear remains ?
 She whom my restless gratitude has sought
 So long in vain ? O heavens ! the very same,
 The softened image of my noble friend ;
 Alive his every look, his every feature,
 More elegantly touched. Sweeter than Spring !
 Thou sole-surviving blossom from the root
 That nourished up my fortune ! Say, ah where,
 In what sequestered desert hast thou drawn
 The kindest aspect of delighted Heaven ?
 Into such beauty spread, and blown so fair ;
 Though Poverty's cold wind, and crushing rain,
 Beat keen and heavy on thy tender years ?
 O let me now into a richer soil
 Transplant thee safe ! where vernal suns and showers
 Diffuse their warmest, largest influence ;
 And of my garden be the pride and joy !
 Ill it befits thee, oh it ill befits
 Acasto's daughter, his, whose open stores,
 Though vast, were little to his ampler heart,

The father of a country, thus to pick
 The very refuse of those harvest-fields
 Which from his bounteous friendship I enjoy.
 Then throw that shameful pittance from thy hand,
 But ill applied to such a rugged task ;
 The fields, the master, all, my fair, are thine :
 If to the various blessings which thy house
 Has on me lavished thou wilt add that bliss,
 That dearest bliss, the power of blessing thee ! ”

Here ceased the youth : yet still his speaking eye
 Expressed the sacred triumph of his soul,
 With conscious virtue, gratitude, and love,
 Above the vulgar joy divinely raised.
 Nor waited he reply. Won by the charm
 Of goodness irresistible, and all
 In sweet disorder lost, she blushed consent.
 The news immediate to her mother brought,
 While, pierced with anxious thought, she pined away
 The lonely moments for Lavinia's fate ;
 Amazed, and scarce believing what she heard,
 Joy seized her withered veins, and one bright gleam
 Of setting life shone on her evening-hours :
 Not less enraptured than the happy pair,
 Who flourished long in tender bliss, and reared
 A numerous offspring, lovely like themselves,
 And good, the grace of all the country round.

Defeating oft the labours of the year,
 The sultry south collects a potent blast.
 At first the groves are scarcely seen to stir
 Their trembling tops, and a still murmur runs
 Along the soft-inclining fields of corn.
 But as the aërial tempest fuller swells,
 And in one mighty stream, invisible,
 Immense, the whole excited atmosphere
 Impetuous rushes o'er the sounding world :
 Strained to the root, the stooping forest pours
 A rustling shower of yet untimely leaves.

High-beat, the circling mountains eddy in,
From the bare wild, the dissipated storm,
And send it in a torrent down the vale.
Exposed, and naked, to its utmost rage,
Through all the sea of harvest rolling round,
The billowy plain floats wide, nor can evade,
Though pliant to the blast, its seizing force ;
Or whirled in air, or into vacant chaff
Shook waste. And sometimes too a burst of rain,
Swept from the black horizon, broad, descends
In one continuous flood. Still over head
The mingling tempest weaves its gloom, and still
The deluge deepens, till the fields around
Lie sunk, and flatted, in the sordid wave.
Sudden the ditches swell, the meadows swim.
Red, from the hills, innumerable streams
Tumultuous roar, and high above its banks
The river lift, before whose rushing tide
Herds, flocks, and harvests, cottages, and swains,
Roll mingled down ; all that the winds had spared
In one wild moment ruined ; the big hopes
And well-earned treasures of the painful year.
Fled to some eminence, the husbandman
Helpless beholds the miserable wreck
Driving along ; his drowning ox at once
Descending, with his labours scattered round,
He sees ; and instant o'er his shivering thought
Comes Winter unprovided, and a train
Of clamant children dear. Ye masters, then,
Be mindful of the rough laborious hand
That sinks you soft in elegance and ease ;
Be mindful of those limbs, in russet clad,
Whose toil to yours is warmth and graceful pride ;
And, oh ! be mindful of that sparing board
Which covers yours with luxury profuse,
Makes your glass sparkle, and your sense rejoice !
Nor cruelly demand what the deep rains

And all-involving winds have swept away.

Here the rude clamour of the sportsman's joy,
 The gun fast-thundering, and the winded horn,
 Would tempt the Muse to sing the rural game :
 How in his mid-career the spaniel struck,
 Stiff, by the tainted gale, with open nose,
 Outstretched and finely sensible, draws full,
 Fearful, and cautious, on the latent prey ;
 As in the sun the circling covey bask
 Their varied plumes, and watchful every way
 Through the rough stubble turn the secret eye.
 Caught in the meshy snare, in vain they beat
 Their idle wings, entangled more and more :
 Nor on the surges of the boundless air,
 Though borne triumphant, are they safe ; the gun,
 Glanced just, and sudden, from the fowler's eye,
 O'ertakes their sounding pinions ; and again,
 Immediate, brings them from the towering wing,
 Dead to the ground ; or drives them wide-dispersed
 Wounded, and wheeling various, down the wind.

These are not subjects for the peaceful Muse,
 Nor will she stain with such her spotless song ;
 Then most delighted, when she social sees
 The whole mixed animal-creation round
 Alive and happy. 'Tis not joy to her,
 The falsely-cheerful barbarous game of death,
 This rage of pleasure, which the restless youth
 Awakes, impatient, with the gleaming morn :
 When beasts of prey retire, that all night long,
 Urged by necessity, had ranged the dark,
 As if their conscious ravage shunned the light,
 Ashamed. Not so the steady tyrant man,
 Who with the thoughtless insolence of power
 Inflamed, beyond the most infuriate wrath
 Of the worst monster that e'er roamed the waste,
 For sport alone pursues the cruel chase,
 Amid the beamings of the gentle days.

Upbraid, ye ravening tribes, our wanton rage,
 For hunger kindles you, and lawless want ;
 But lavish fed, in Nature's bounty rolled,
 To joy at anguish, and delight in blood,
 Is what your horrid bosoms never knew.

Poor is the triumph o'er the timid hare !
 Scared from the corn, and now to some lone seat
 Retired: the rushy fen ; the ragged furze,
 Stretched o'er the stony heath ; the stubble chapt ;
 The thistly lawn ; the thick-entangled broom ;
 Of the same friendly hue, the withered fern ;
 The fallow ground laid open to the sun,
 Concoctive ; and the nodding sandy bank,
 Hung o'er the mazes of the mountain brook.
 Vain is her best precaution ; though she sits
 Concealed, with folded ears ; unsleeping eyes,
 By Nature raised to take the horizon in ;
 And head couched close between her hairy feet,
 In act to spring away. The scented dew
 Betrays her early labyrinth ; and deep,
 In scattered sullen openings, far behind,
 With every breeze she hears the coming storm.
 But nearer, and more frequent, as it loads
 The sighing gale, she springs amazed, and all
 The savage soul of game is up at once :
 The pack full-opening, various ; the shrill horn
 Resounded from the hills ; the neighing steed,
 Wild for the chase ; and the loud hunters' shout ;
 O'er a weak, harmless, flying creature, all
 Mixed in mad tumult, and discordant joy.

The stag too, singled from the herd where long
 He ranged the branching monarch of the shades,
 Before the tempest drives. At first in speed
 He, sprightly, puts his faith ; and, roused by fear,
 Gives all his swift aërial soul to flight ;
 Against the breeze he darts, that way the more
 To leave the lessening murderous cry behind :

Deception short ! though fleeter than the winds
Blown o'er the keen-aired mountain by the north,
He bursts the thickets, glances through the glades,
And plunges deep into the wildest wood ;
If slow, yet sure, adhesive to the track
Hot-steaming, up behind him come again
Th' inhuman rout, and from the shady depth
Expel him, circling through his every shift.
He sweeps the forest oft ; and sobbing sees
The glades, mild opening to the golden day ;
Where, in kind contest, with his butting friends
He wont to struggle, or his loves enjoy.
Oft in the full descending flood he tries
To lose the scent, and lave his burning sides :
Oft seeks the herd ; the watchful herd, alarmed,
With selfish care avoid a brother's woe.
What shall he do ? His once so vivid nerves,
So full of buoyant spirit, now no more
Inspire the course ; but fainting breathless toil,
Sick, seizes on his heart : he stands at bay,
And puts his last weak refuge in despair.
The big round tears run down his dappled face ;
He groans in anguish ; while the growling pack,
Blood-happy, hang at his fair jutting chest,
And mark his beauteous checkered sides with gore.

Of this enough. But if the sylvan youth,
Whose fervent blood boils into violence,
Must have the chase ; behold, despising flight,
The roused-up lion, resolute, and slow,
Advancing full on the protended spear,
And coward-band, that circling wheel aloof.
Slunk from the cavern, and the troubled wood,
See the grim wolf ; on him his shaggy foe
Vindictive fix, and let the ruffian die :
Or, growling horrid, as the brindled boar
Grins fell-destruction, to the monster's heart
Let the dart lighten from the nervous arm.

These Britain knows not ; give, ye Britons, then
 Your sportive fury, pitiless, to pour
 Loose on the nightly robber of the fold ;
 Him, from his craggy winding haunts unearthed,
 Let all the thunder of the chase pursue.
 Throw the broad ditch behind you ; o'er the hedge
 High bound, resistless ; nor the deep morass
 Refuse, but through the shaking wilderness
 Pick your nice way ; into the perilous flood
 Bear fearless, of the raging instinct full ;
 And, as you ride the torrent, to the banks
 Your triumph sound sonorous, running round,
 From rock to rock, in circling echoes tossed ;
 Then scale the mountains to their woody tops ;
 Rush down the dangerous steep ; and o'er the lawn,
 In fancy swallowing up the space between,
 Pour all your speed into the rapid game.
 For happy he ! who tops the wheeling chase ;
 Has every maze evolved, and every guile
 Disclosed ; who knows the merits of the pack ;
 Who saw the villain seized, and dying hard,
 Without complaint, though by a hundred mouths
 Relentless torn. O glorious he, beyond
 His daring peers ! when the retreating horn
 Calls them to ghostly halls of grey renown,
 With woodland honours graced ; the fox's fur
 Depending decent from the roof : and spread
 Round the drear walls, with antic figures fierce,
 The stag's large front : he then is loudest heard,
 When the night staggers with severer toils,
 With feats Thessalian centaurs never knew,
 And their repeated wonders shake the dome.
 But first the fuelled chimney blazes wide ;
 The tankards foam ; and the strong table groans
 Beneath the smoking sirloin, stretched immense
 From side to side ; in which, with desperate knife,
 They deep incision make, and talk the while

Of England's glory, ne'er to be defaced,
While hence they borrow vigour : or amain
Into the pasty plunged, at intervals,
If stomach keen can intervals allow,
Relating all the glories of the chase.
Then sated Hunger bids his brother Thirst
Produce the mighty bowl ; the mighty bowl,
Swelled high with fiery juice, steams liberal round
A potent gale, delicious, as the breath
Of Maia to the love-sick shepherdess,
On violets diffused, while soft she hears
Her panting shepherd stealing to her arms.
Nor wanting is the brown October, drawn,
Mature and perfect, from his dark retreat
Of thirty years ; and now his honest front
Flames in the light refulgent, not afraid
E'en with the vineyard's best produce to vie.
To cheat the thirsty moments, Whist awhile
Walks his dull round beneath a cloud of smoke,
Wreathed, fragrant, from the pipe ; or the quick dice,
In thunder leaping from the box, awake
The sounding gammon ; while romp-loving miss
Is hauled about, in gallantry robust.

At last, these puling idlenesses laid
Aside, frequent and full, the dry divan
Close in firm circle ; and set, ardent, in
For serious drinking. Nor evasion sly,
Nor sober shift, is to the puking wretch
Indulged apart ; but earnest, brimming bowls
Lave every soul, the table floating round,
And pavement, faithless to the fuddled foot.
Thus as they swim in mutual swill, the talk,
Vociferous at once from twenty tongues,
Reels fast from theme to theme ; from horses, hounds,
To church or mistress, politics or ghost,
In endless mazes, intricate, perplexed.
Meantime, with sudden interruption, loud,

Th' impatient catch bursts from the joyous heart :
 That moment touched is every kindred soul ;
 And, opening in a full-mouthed cry of joy,
 The laugh, the slap, the jocund curse go round ;
 While, from their slumbers shook, the kennelled hounds
 Mix in the music of the day again.

As when the tempest, that has vexed the deep
 The dark night long, with fainter murmurs falls,
 So gradual sinks their mirth. Their feeble tongues,
 Unable to take up the cumbrous word,
 Lie quite dissolved. Before their maudlin eyes,
 Seen dim and blue, the double tapers dance,
 Like the sun wading through the misty sky.
 Then, sliding soft, they drop. Confused above,
 Glasses and bottles, pipes and gazetteers,
 As if the table e'en itself was drunk,
 Lie a wet broken scene ; and wide, below,
 Is heaped the social slaughter : where astride
 The lubber Power in filthy triumph sits,
 Slumbrous, inclining still from side to side,
 And steeps them drenched in potent sleep till morn.
 Perhaps some doctor, of tremendous paunch,
 Awful and deep, a black abyss of drink,
 Outlives them all ; and from his buried flock
 Retiring, full of rumination sad,
 Laments the weakness of these latter times.

But if the rougher sex by this fierce sport
 Is hurried wild, let not such horrid joy
 E'er stain the bosom of the British fair.
 Far be the spirit of the chase from them !
 Uncomely courage, unbecoming skill ;
 To spring the fence, to rein the prancing steed ;
 The cap, the whip, the masculine attire,
 In which they roughen to the sense, and all
 The winning softness of their sex is lost.
 In them 'tis graceful to dissolve at woe ;
 With every motion, every word, to wave

Quick o'er the kindling cheek the ready blush ;
And from the smallest violence to shrink
Unequal, then the loveliest in their fears ;
And by this silent adulation, soft,
To their protection more engaging man.
O may their eyes no miserable sight,
Save weeping lovers, see ! a nobler game,
Through love's enchanting wiles pursued, yet fled,
In chase ambiguous. May their tender limbs
Float in the loose simplicity of dress !
And, fashioned all to harmony, alone
Know they to seize the captivated soul,
In rapture warbled from love-breathing lips ;
To teach the lute to languish ; with smooth step,
Disclosing motion in its every charm,
To swim along, and swell the mazy dance ;
To train the foliage o'er the snowy lawn ;
To guide the pencil, turn the tuneful page ;
To lend new flavour to the fruitful year,
And heighten Nature's dainties ; in their race
To rear their graces into second life ;
To give society its highest taste ;
Well-ordered-home man's best delight to make ;
And by submissive wisdom, modest skill,
With every gentle care-eluding art,
To raise the virtues, animate the bliss,
And sweeten all the toils of human life ;
This be the female dignity and praise.

Ye swains, now hasten to the hazel bank,
Where, down yon dale, the wildly-winding brook
Falls hoarse from steep to steep. In close array,
Fit for the thickets and the tangling shrub,
Ye virgins, come. For you their latest song
The woodlands raise ; the clustering nuts for you
The lover finds amid the secret shade ;
And, where they burnish on the topmost bough,
With active vigour crushes down the tree ;

Or shakes them ripe from the resigning husk,
 A glossy shower, and of an ardent brown,
 As are the ringlets of Melinda's hair :
 Melinda ! formed with every grace complete ;
 Yet these neglecting, above beauty wise,
 And far transcending such a vulgar praise.

Hence from the busy joy-resounding fields,
 In cheerful error, let us tread the maze
 Of Autumn, unconfined ; and taste, revived,
 The breath of orchard big with bending fruit ;
 Obedient to the breeze and beating ray,
 From the deep-loaded bough a mellow shower
 Incessant melts away. The juicy pear
 Lies, in a soft profusion, scattered round.
 A various sweetness swells the gentle race,
 By Nature's all-refining hand prepared ;
 Of tempered sun, and water, earth, and air,
 In ever-changing composition mixed.
 Such, falling frequent through the chiller night,
 The fragrant stores, the wide-projected heaps
 Of apples, which the lusty-handed Year,
 Innumerable, o'er the blushing orchard shakes.
 A various spirit, fresh, delicious, keen,
 Dwells in their gelid pores ; and, active, points
 The piercing cider for the thirsty tongue :
 Thy native theme, and boon inspirer too,
 Philips, Pomona's bard, the second thou
 Who nobly durst, in rhyme-unfettered verse,
 With British freedom sing the British song :
 How, from Silurian vats, high-sparkling wines
 Foam in transparent floods ; some strong, to cheer
 The wintry revels of the labouring hind ;
 And tasteful some, to cool the summer hours.

In this glad season, while his sweetest beams
 The sun sheds equal o'er the meekened day,
 Oh lose me in the green delightful walks
 Of Dodington, thy seat, serene and plain ;

Where simple Nature reigns ; and every view,
Diffusive, spreads the pure Dorsetian downs,
In boundless prospect ; yonder shagged with wood,
Here rich with harvest, and there white with flocks !
Meantime the grandeur of thy lofty dome,
Far-splendid, seizes on the ravished eye.
New beauties rise with each revolving day ;
New columns swell ; and still the fresh Spring finds
New plants to quicken, and new groves to green.
Full of thy genius all ! the Muses' seat :
Where in the secret bower, and winding walk,
For virtuous Young and thee they twine the bay.
Here wandering oft, fired with the restless thirst
Of thy applause, I solitary court
Th' inspiring breeze, and meditate the book
Of Nature, ever open ; aiming thence,
Warm from the heart, to learn the moral song.
Here, as I steal along the sunny wall
Where Autumn basks, with fruit empurpled deep,
My pleasing theme continual prompts my thought :
Presents the downy peach, the shining plum,
The ruddy, fragrant nectarine, and, dark
Beneath his ample leaf, the luscious fig.
The vine too here her curling tendrils shoots,
Hangs out her clusters, glowing to the south,
And scarcely wishes for a warmer sky.

Turn we a moment Fancy's rapid flight
To vigorous soils, and climes of fair extent ;
Where, by the potent sun elated high,
The vineyard swells refulgent on the day,
Spreads o'er the vale, or up the mountain climbs,
Profuse, and drinks amid the sunny rocks,
From cliff to cliff increased, the heightened blaze.
Low bend the weighty boughs. The clusters clear,
Half through the foliage seen, or ardent flame,
Or shine transparent ; while perfection breathes
White o'er the turgent film the living dew.

As thus they brighten with exalted juice,
Touched into flavour by the mingling ray ;
The rural youth and virgins o'er the field,
Each fond for each to cull the autumnal prime,
Exulting rove, and speak the vintage nigh.
Then comes the crushing swain ; the country floats,
And foams unbounded with the mashy flood ;
That by degrees fermented, and refined,
Round the raised nations pours the cup of joy :
The claret smooth, red as the lip we press
In sparkling fancy, while we drain the bowl ;
The mellow-tasted Burgundy ; and, quick
As is the wit it gives, the gay Champagne.

Now, by the cool declining year condensed,
Descend the copious exhalations, checked
As up the middle sky unseen they stole,
And roll the doubling fogs around the hill.
No more the mountain, horrid, vast, sublime,
Which pours a sweep of rivers from its sides,
And high between contending kingdoms rears
The rocky long division, fills the view
With great variety ; but, in a night
Of gathering vapour, from the baffled sense
Sinks dark and dreary. Thence expanding far,
The hugh dusk, gradual, swallows up the plain :
Vanish the woods ; the dim-seen river seems
Sullen, and slow, to roll the misty wave.
E'en in the height of noon oppressed, the sun
Sheds weak, and blunt, his wide-refracted ray :
Whence glaring oft, with many a broadened orb,
He frights the nations. Indistinct on earth,
Seen through the turbid air, beyond the life
Objects appear ; and, wildered, o'er the waste
The shepherd stalks gigantic. Till at last
Wreathed dun around, in deeper circles still
Successive closing, sits the general fog
Unbounded o'er the world ; and, mingling thick,

A formless grey confusion covers all.
As when of old (so sung the Hebrew Bard)
Light, uncollected, through the chaos urged
Its infant way ; nor Order yet had drawn
His lovely train from out the dubious gloom.

These roving mists, that constant now begin
To smoke along the hilly country, these
With weightier rains, and melted Alpine snows,
The mountain-cisterns fill, those ample stores
Of water, scooped among the hollow rocks ;
Whence gush the streams, the ceaseless fountains play,
And their unfailing wealth the rivers draw.
Some sages say, that, where the numerous wave
For ever lashes the resounding shore,
Drilled through the sandy stratum, every way,
The waters with the sandy stratum rise ;
Amid whose angles, infinitely strained,
They joyful leave their jaggy salts behind,
And clear and sweeten as they soak along.
Nor stops the restless fluid, mounting still,
Though oft amidst the irriguous vale it springs ;
But to the mountain courted by the sand,
That leads it darkling on in faithful maze,
Far from the parent-main, it boils again
Fresh into day, and all the glittering hill
Is bright with spouting rills. But hence this vain
Amusive dream ! why should the waters love
To take so far a journey to the hills,
When the sweet valleys offer to their toil
Inviting quiet, and a nearer bed ?
Or if, by blind ambition led astray,
They must aspire, why should they sudden stop
Among the broken mountain's rushy dells,
And, ere they gain its highest peak, desert
The attractive sand that charmed their course so long ?
Besides, the hard agglomerating salts,
The spoil of ages, would impervious choke

Their secret channels ; or, by slow degrees,
 High as the hills protrude the swelling vales :
 Old Ocean too, sucked through the porous globe,
 Had long ere now forsook his horrid bed,
 And brought Deucalion's watery times again.

Say, then, where lurk the vast eternal springs
 That, like creating Nature, lie concealed
 From mortal eye, yet with their lavish stores
 Refresh the globe, and all its joyous tribes !
 O thou pervading Genius, given to man,
 To trace the secrets of the dark abyss,
 O lay the mountains bare ! and wide display
 Their hidden structure to the astonished view !
 Strip from the branching Alps their piny load ;
 The huge incumbrance of horrific woods
 From Asian Taurus, from Imaus stretched
 Athwart the roving Tartar's sullen bounds !
 Give opening Hemus to my searching eye,
 And high Olympus pouring many a stream ;
 O from the sounding summits of the north,
 The Dofrine Hills, through Scandinavia rolled
 To farthest Lapland and the frozen main ;
 From lofty Caucasus, far seen by those
 Who in the Caspian and black Euxine toil ;
 From cold Riphean rocks, which the wild Russ
 Believes the stony girdle of the world ;
 And all the dreadful mountains, wrapt in storm,
 Whence wide Siberia draws her lonely floods ;
 O sweep the eternal snows ! Hung o'er the deep,
 That ever works beneath his sounding base,
 Bid Atlas, propping heaven, as poets feign,
 His subterranean wonders spread ! Unveil
 The miny caverns, blazing on the day,
 Of Abyssinia's cloud-compelling cliffs,
 And of the bending Mountains of the Moon !
 O'er-topping all these giant-sons of earth,
 O'er the dire Andes, from the radiant line

Stretched to the stormy seas that thunder round
The southern pole, their hideous deeps unfold !

Amazing scene ! Behold ! the glooms disclose,
I see the rivers in their infant beds !

Deep, deep, I hear them, labouring to get free !

I see the leaning strata, artful ranged ;

The gaping fissures to receive the rains,

The melting snows, and ever-dripping fogs.

Strowed bibulous above I see the sands,

The pebbly gravel next, the layers then

Of mingled moulds, of more retentive earths

The guttered rocks and mazy-running clefts ;

That, while the stealing moisture they transmit,

Retard its motion, and forbid its waste.

Beneath th' incessant weeping of these drains,

I see the rocky siphons stretched immense,

The mighty reservoirs, of hardened chalk,

Or stiff-compacted clay, capacious formed.

O'erflowing thence, the congregated stores,

The crystal treasures of the liquid world,

Through the stirred sands a bubbling passage burst ;

And welling out, around the middle steep,

Or from the bottoms of the bosomed hills,

In pure effusion flow. United, thus,

Th' exhaling sun, the vapour-burdened air,

The gelid mountains, that to rain condensed

These vapours in continual current draw,

And send them, o'er the fair-divided earth,

In bounteous rivers to the deep again,

A social commerce hold, and firm support

The full-adjusted harmony of things.

When Autumn scatters his departing gleams,

Warned of approaching Winter, gathered, play

The swallow-people ; and tossed wide around,

O'er the calm sky, in convulsion swift,

The feathered eddy floats ; rejoicing once,

Ere to their wintry slumbers they retire ;

In clusters clung, beneath the mouldering bank,
 And where, unpierced by frost, the cavern sweats.
 Or rather into warmer climes conveyed,
 With other kindred birds of season, there
 They twitter cheerful, till the vernal months
 Invite them welcome back : for, thronging, now
 Innumerable wings are in commotion all.

Where the Rhine loses his majestic force
 In Belgian plains, won from the raging deep,
 By diligence amazing, and the strong
 Unconquerable hand of Liberty,
 The stork-assembly meets ; for many a day,
 Consulting deep, and various, ere they take
 Their arduous voyage through the liquid sky :
 And now their route designed, their leaders chose,
 Their tribes adjusted, cleaned their vigorous wings ;
 And many a circle, many a short essay,
 Wheeled round and round, in congregation full
 The figured flight ascends ; and, riding high
 The aerial billows, mixes with the clouds.

Or where the Northern Ocean, in vast whirls,
 Boils round the naked melancholy isles
 Of farthest Thulé, and the Atlantic surge
 Pours in among the stormy Hebrides ;
 Who can recount what transmigrations there
 Are annual made ? what nations come and go ?
 And how the living clouds on clouds arise ?
 Infinite wings ! till all the plume-dark air
 And rude-resounding shore are one wild cry.

Here the plain harmless native his small flock,
 And herd diminutive of many hues,
 Tends on the little island's verdant swell,
 The shepherd's sea-girt reign ; or, to the rocks
 Dire-clinging, gathers his ovarious food ;
 Or sweeps the fishy shore ; or treasures up
 The plumage, rising full, to form the bed
 Of luxury. And here awhile the Muse,



High hovering o'er the broad cerulean scene,
 Sees Caledonia, in romantic view :
 Her airy mountains, from the waving main,
 Invested with a keen diffusive sky,
 Breathing the soul acute ; her forests large,
 Incult, robust, and tall, by Nature's hand
 Planted of old ; her azure lakes between,
 Poured out extensive, and of watery wealth
 Full ; winding deep, and green, her fertile vales ;
 With many a cool translucent brimming flood
 Washed lovely, from the Tweed (pure parent stream,
 Whose pastoral banks first heard my Doric reed,
 With, sylvan Jed, thy tributary brook)
 To where the north-inflated tempest foams
 O'er Orca's or Betubium's highest peak :
 Nurse of a people, in Misfortune's school
 Trained up to hardy deeds ; soon visited
 By Learning, when before the Gothic rage
 She took her western flight. A manly race,
 Of unsubmitting spirit, wise, and brave ;
 Who still through bleeding ages struggled hard
 (As well unhappy Wallace can attest,
 Great patriot-hero ! ill-requited chief !)
 To hold a generous undiminished state ;
 Too much in vain ! Hence of unequal bounds
 Impatient, and by tempting glory borne
 O'er every land, for every land their life
 Has flowed profuse, their piercing genius planned,
 And swelled the pomp of peace their faithful toil.
 As from their own clear north, in radiant streams,
 Bright over Europe bursts the Boreal morn.

Oh ! is there not some patriot, in whose power
 That best, that god-like luxury is placed,
 Of blessing thousands, thousands yet unborn,
 Through late posterity ? some, large of soul,
 To cheer dejected industry ? to give
 A double harvest to the pining swain,

And teach the labouring hand the sweets of toil ?
 How, by the finest art, the native robe
 To weave ; how, white as hyperborean snow,
 To form the lucid lawn ; with venturous oar
 How to dash wide the billow ; nor look on,
 Shamefully passive, while Batavian fleets
 Defraud us of the glittering finny swarms,
 That heave our friths, and crowd upon our shores ;
 How all-enlivening trade to rouse, and wing
 The prosperous sail, from every growing port,
 Uninjured, round the sea-encircled globe ;
 And thus, in soul united as in name,
 Bid Britain reign the mistress of the deep ?

Yes, there are such. And, full on thee, Argyle,
 Her hope, her stay, her darling, and her boast,
 From her first patriots and her heroes sprung,
 Thy fond imploring country turns her eye ;
 In thee, with all a mother's triumph, sees
 Her every virtue, every grace combined,
 Her genius, wisdom, her engaging turn,
 Her pride of honour, and her courage tried,
 Calm, and intrepid, in the very throat
 Of sulphurous war, on Tenier's dreadful field.
 Nor less the palm of peace inwreathes thy brow :
 For, powerful as thy sword, from thy rich tongue
 Persuasion flows, and wins the high debate ;
 While mixed in thee combine the charm of youth,
 The force of manhood, and the depth of age.
 Thee, Forbes, too, whom every worth attends,
 As truth sincere, as weeping friendship kind,
 Thee, truly generous, and in silence great,
 Thy country feels through her reviving arts,
 Planned by thy wisdom, by thy soul informed ;
 And seldom has she known a friend like thee.

But see the fading many-coloured woods,
 Shade deepening over shade, the country round
 Imbrown, a crowded umbrage, dusk, and dun,

Of every hue, from wan declining green
 To sooty dark. These now the lonesome Muse,
 Low-whispering, lead into their leaf-strown walks,
 And give the Season in its latest view.

Meantime, light shadowing all, a sober calm
 Fleeces unbounded ether ; whose least wave
 Stands tremulous, uncertain where to turn
 The gentle current ; while, illumined wide,
 The dewy-skirted clouds imbibe the sun,
 And through their lucid veil his softened force
 Shed o'er the peaceful world. Then is the time,
 For those whom Wisdom and whom Nature charm,
 To steal themselves from the degenerate crowd,
 And soar above this little scene of things ;
 To tread low-thoughted Vice beneath their feet ;
 To soothe the throbbing passions into peace ;
 And woo lone Quiet in her silent walks.

Thus solitary, and in pensive guise,
 Oft let me wander o'er the russet mead,
 And through the saddened grove, where scarce is heard
 One dying strain, to cheer the woodman's toil.
 Haply some widowed songster pours his plaint,
 Far, in faint warblings, through the tawny copse ;
 While congregated thrushes, linnets, larks,
 And each wild throat, whose artless strains so late
 Swelled all the music of the swarming shades,
 Robbed of their tuneful souls, now shivering sit
 On the dead tree, a dull despondent flock ;
 With not a brightness waving o'er their plumes,
 And nought save chattering discord in their note.
 O ! let not, aimed from some inhuman eye,
 The gun the music of the coming year
 Destroy ; and harmless, unsuspecting harm,
 Lay the weak tribes a miserable prey,
 In mingled murder, fluttering on the ground !

The pale descending year, yet pleasing still,
 A gentler mood inspires ; for now the leaf

Incessant rustles from the mournful grove ;
 Oft startling such as, studious, walk below,
 And slowly circles through the waving air.
 But should a quicker breeze amid the boughs
 Sob, o'er the sky the leafy deluge streams ;
 Till choked and matted with the dreary shower,
 The forest walks, at every rising gale,
 Roll wide the withered waste, and whistle bleak.
 Fled is the blasted verdure of the fields ;
 And, shrunk into their beds, the flowery race
 Their sunny robes resign. E'en what remained
 Of stronger fruits falls from the naked tree ;
 And woods, fields, gardens, orchards, all around
 The desolated prospect thrills the soul.

He comes ! he comes ! in every breeze the Power
 Of Philosophic Melancholy comes !

His near approach the sudden starting tear,
 The glowing cheek, the mild dejected air,
 The softened feature, and the beating heart,
 Pierced deep with many a virtuous pang, declare.
 O'er all the soul his sacred influence breathes !
 Inflames imagination ; through the breast
 Infuses every tenderness ; and far
 Beyond dim earth exalts the swelling thought.
 Ten thousand thousand fleet ideas, such
 As never mingled with the vulgar dream,
 Crowd fast into the mind's creative eye.
 As fast the correspondent passions rise,
 As varied, and as high : Devotion raised
 To rapture, and divine astonishment ;
 The love of Nature unconfined, and, chief,
 Of human race ; the large ambitious wish,
 To make them blest ; the sigh for suffering worth
 Lost in obscurity ; the noble scorn
 Of tyrant-pride ; the fearless great resolve ;
 The wonder which the dying patriot draws,
 Inspiring glory through remotest time ;

Th' awakened throb for virtue, and for fame ;
 The sympathies of love, and friendship dear ;
 With all the social offspring of the heart.

Oh ! bear me then to vast embowering shades,
 To twilight groves, and visionary vales ;
 To weeping grottoes, and prophetic glooms ;
 Where angel forms athwart the solemn dusk
 Tremendous sweep, or seem to sweep along ;
 And voices more than human, through the void
 Deep-sounding, seize th' enthusiastic ear !

Or is this gloom too much ? Then lead, ye powers,
 That o'er the garden and the rural seat
 Preside, which shining through the cheerful land
 In countless numbers blest Britannia sees ;
 O, lead me to the wide-extended walks,
 The fair majestic paradise of Stowe* !
 Not Persian Cyrus on Ionia's shore
 E'er saw such sylvan scenes ; such various art
 By genius fired, such ardent genius tamed
 By cool judicious art ; that, in the strife,
 All beauteous Nature fears to be outdone.
 And there, O Pitt, thy country's early boast,
 There let me sit beneath the sheltered slopes,
 Or in that Temple † where, in future times,
 Thou well shalt merit a distinguished name ;
 And, with thy converse blest, catch the last smiles
 Of Autumn beaming o'er the yellow woods.
 While there with thee th' enchanted round I walk,
 The regulated wild, gay Fancy then
 Will tread in thought the groves of Attic land ;
 Will from thy standard taste refine her own,
 Correct her pencil to the purest truth
 Of Nature, or, the unimpassioned shades
 Forsaking, raise it to the human mind.
 Or if hereafter she, with juster hand,

* The seat of Lord Cobham.

† The Temple of Virtue in Stowe Gardens.

Shall draw the tragic scene, instruct her, thou,
 To mark the varied movements of the heart,
 What every decent character requires,
 And every passion speaks : O ! through her strain
 Breathe thy pathetic eloquence, that moulds
 Th' attentive senate, charms, persuades, exalts,
 Of honest Zeal th' indignant lightning throws,
 And shakes Corruption on her venal throne !
 While thus we talk, and through Elysian vales
 Delighted rove, perhaps a sigh escapes :
 What pity, Cobham, thou thy verdant files
 Of ordered trees shouldst here inglorious range,
 Instead of squadrons flaming o'er the field,
 And long embattled hosts ! when the proud foe,
 The faithless vain disturber of mankind,
 Insulting Gaul, has roused the world to war ;
 When keen, once more, within their bounds to press
 Those polished robbers, those ambitious slaves,
 The British youth would hail thy wise command,
 Thy tempered ardour and thy veteran skill.

The western sun withdraws the shortened day ;
 And humid Evening, gliding o'er the sky,
 In her chill progress, to the ground condensed
 The vapours throws. Where creeping waters ooze,
 Where marshes stagnate, and where rivers wind,
 Cluster the rolling fogs, and swim along
 The dusky-mantled lawn. Meanwhile the Moon,
 Full-orbed, and breaking through the scattered clouds,
 Shows her broad visage in the crimsoned east.
 Turned to the sun direct, her spotted disk,
 Where mountains rise, umbrageous dales descend,
 And caverns deep, as optic tube descries,
 A smaller earth, gives us his blaze again,
 Void of its flame, and sheds a softer day.
 Now through the passing cloud she seems to stoop,
 Now up the pure cerulean rides sublime.
 Wide the pale deluge floats, and streaming mild

O'er the skyed mountain to the shadowy vale,
 While rocks and floods reflect the quivering gleam,
 The whole air whitens with a boundless tide
 Of silver radiance, trembling round the world.

But when half blotted from the sky her light,
 Fainting, permits the starry fires to burn
 With keener lustre through the depth of heaven ;
 Or near extinct her deadened orb appears,
 And scarce appears, of sickly beamless white ;
 Oft in this season, silent from the north
 A blaze of meteors shoots : ensweeping first
 The lower skies, they all at once converge
 High to the crown of heaven, and all at once
 Relapsing quick; as quickly reascend,
 And mix, and thwart, extinguish, and renew,
 All ether coursing in a maze of light.
 From look to look, contagious through the crowd,
 The panic runs, and into wondrous shapes
 Th' appearance throws : armies in meet array,
 Thronged with aërial spears, and steeds of fire ;
 Till, the long lines of full-extended war
 In bleeding fight commixed, the sanguine flood
 Rolls a broad slaughter o'er the plains of heaven.
 As thus they scan the visionary scene,
 On all sides swells the superstitious din,
 Incontinent ; and busy Frenzy talks
 Of blood and battle ; cities overturned,
 And late at night in swallowing earthquake sunk,
 Or hideous wrapt in fierce ascending flame ;
 Of sallow famine, inundation, storm ;
 Of pestilence, and every great distress ;
 Empires subversed, when ruling fate has struck
 The unalterable hour : e'en Nature's self
 Is deemed to totter on the brink of time.
 Not so the man of philosophic eye,
 And inspect sage ; the waving brightness he
 Curious surveys, inquisitive to know

The causes, and materials, yet unfixed,
Of this appearance beautiful and new.

Now black, and deep, the night begins to fall,
A shade immense! Sunk in the quenching gloom,
Magnificent and vast, are heaven and earth.
Order confounded lies ; all beauty void ;
Distinction lost ; and gay variety
One universal blot : such the fair power
Of light, to kindle and create the whole.
Drear is the state of the benighted wretch,
Who then, bewildered, wanders through the dark,
Full of pale fancies, and chimeras huge ;
Nor visited by one directive ray,
From cottage streaming, or from airy hall.
Perhaps impatient as he stumbles on,
Struck from the root of slimy rushes, blue,
The wildfire scatters round, or gathered trails
A length of flame deceitful o'er the moss :
Whither decoyed by the fantastic blaze,
Now lost and now renewed, he sinks absorbed,
Rider and horse, amid the miry gulf :
While still, from day to day, his pining wife
And plaintive children his return await,
In wild conjecture lost. At other times,
Sent by the better Genius of the night,
Innoxious, gleaming on the horse's mane,
The meteor sits ; and shows the narrow path,
That winding leads through pits of death, or else
Instructs him how to take the dangerous ford.

The lengthened night elapsed, the Morning shines
Serene, in all her dewy beauty bright,
Unfolding fair the last autumnal day.
And now the mounting sun dispels the fog ;
The rigid hoar-frost melts before his beam ;
And hung on every spray, on every blade
Across, the myriad dew-drops twinkle round.
see where, robbed and murdered, in that pit

Lies the still heaving hive ! at evening snatched,
Beneath the cloud of guilt-concealing night,
And fixed o'er sulphur ; while, not dreaming ill,
The happy people, in their waxen cells,
Sat tending public cares, and planning schemes
Of temperance, for Winter poor ; rejoiced
To mark, full flowing round, their copious stores.
Sudden the dark oppressive steam ascends ;
And, used to milder scents, the tender race,
By thousands, tumble from their honeyed domes,
Convolved, and agonizing in the dust.

And was it then for this you roamed the Spring,
Intent from flower to flower ? for this you toiled
Ceaseless the burning Summer-heats away ?
For this in Autumn searched the blooming waste,
Nor lost one sunny gleam ? for this sad fate ?
O man ! tyrannic lord ! how long, how long
Shall prostrate Nature groan beneath your rage.
Awaiting renovation ? when obliged,
Must you destroy ? of their ambrosial food
Can you not borrow ; and, in just return,
Afford them shelter from the wintry winds ?
Or, as the sharp year pinches, with their own
Again regale them on some smiling day ?
See where the stony bottom of their town
Looks desolate, and wild ; with here and there
A helpless number, who the ruined state
Survive, lamenting weak, cast out to death.
Thus a proud city, populous and rich,
Full of the works of peace, and high in joy,
At theatre or feast, or sunk in sleep,
(As late, Palermo, was thy fate) is seized
By some dread earthquake, and convulsive hurled
Sheer from the black foundation, stench-involved,
Into a gulf of blue sulphureous flame.

Hence every harsher sight ! for now the day,
O'er heaven and earth diffused, grows warm, and high ;

Infinite splendour! wide investing all.
How still the breeze! save what the filmy thread
Of dew evaporate brushes from the plain.
How clear the cloudless sky! how deeply tinged
With a peculiar blue! the ethereal arch
How swelled immense! amid whose azure throned
The radiant sun how gay! how calm below
The gilded earth! the harvest-treasures all
Now gathered in, beyond the rage of storms,
Sure to the swain; the circling fence shut up;
And instant Winter's utmost rage defied;
While, loose to festive joy, the country round
Laughs with the loud sincerity of mirth,
Shook to the wind their cares. The toil-strung youth,
By the quick sense of music taught alone,
Leaps wildly graceful in the lively dance.
Her every charm abroad, the village-toast,
Young, buxom, warm, in native beauty rich,
Darts not unmeaning looks; and, where her eye
Points an approving smile, with double force,
The cudgel rattles, and the wrestler twines.
Age too shines out; and, garrulous, recounts
The feats of youth. Thus they rejoice; nor think
That, with to-morrow's sun, their annual toil
Begins again the never-ceasing round.

Oh, knew he but his happiness, of men
The happiest he! who far from public rage,
Deep in the vale, with a choice few retired,
Drinks the pure pleasures of the rural life.
What though the dome be wanting, whose proud gate,
Each morning, vomits out the sneaking crowd
Of flatterers false, and in their turn abused?
Vile intercourse! What though the glittering robe,
Of every hue reflected light can give,
Or floating loose, or stiff with mazy gold,
The pride and gaze of fools, oppress him not?
What though, from utmost land and sea purveyed,

For him each rarer tributary life
Bleeds not, and his insatiate table heaps
With luxury and death? What though his bowl
Flames not with costly juice; nor sunk in beds,
Oft of gay care, he tosses out the night,
Or melts the thoughtless hours in idle state?
What though he knows not those fantastic joys
That still amuse the wanton, still deceive;
A face of pleasure, but a heart of pain;
Their hollow moments undelighted all?
Sure peace is his; a solid life, estranged
To disappointment, and fallacious hope:
Rich in content, in Nature's bounty rich,
In herbs and fruits; whatever greens the Spring,
When heaven descends in showers; or bends the bough,
When Summer reddens, and when Autumn beams;
Or in the wintry glebe whatever lies
Concealed, and fattens with the richest sap:
These are not wanting; nor the milky drove,
Luxuriant, spread o'er all the lowing vale;
Nor bleating mountains; nor the chide of streams,
And hum of bees, inviting sleep sincere
Into the guiltless breast, beneath the shade,
Or thrown at large amid the fragrant hay;
Nor aught besides of prospect, grove, or song,
Dim grottoes, gleaming lakes, and fountain clear.
Here too dwells simple Truth; plain Innocence;
Unsullied Beauty; sound unbroken Youth,
Patient of labour, with a little pleased;
Health ever blooming; unambitious Toil;
Calm Contemplation, and poetic Ease.

Let others brave the flood in quest of gain,
And beat, for joyless months, the gloomy wave.
Let such as deem it glory to destroy,
Rush into blood, the sack of cities seek;
Unpierced, exulting in the widow's wail,
The virgin's shriek, and infant's trembling cry.

Let some, far-distant from their native soil,
Urged or by want or hardened avarice,
Find other lands beneath another sun.
Let this through cities work his eager way,
By legal outrage and established guile,
The social sense extinct ; and that ferment
Mad into tumult the seditious herd,
Or melt them down to slavery. Let these
Ensnare the wretched in the toils of law,
Fomenting discord, and perplexing right,
An iron race ! and those of fairer front,
But equal inhumanity, in courts,
Delusive pomp and dark cabals, delight ;
Wreath the deep bow, diffuse the lying smile,
And tread the weary labyrinth of state.
While he, from all the stormy passions free
That restless men involve, hears, and but hears,
At distance safe, the human tempest roar,
Wrapped close in conscious peace. The fall of kings,
The rage of nations, and the crush of states,
Move not the man, who, from the world escaped,
In still retreats and flowery solitudes,
To Nature's voice attends, from month to month,
And day to day, through the revolving year ;
Admiring, sees her in her every shape ;
Feels all her sweet emotions at his heart ;
Takes what she liberal gives, nor thinks of more.
He, when young Spring protrudes the bursting germs,
Marks the first bud, and sucks the healthful gale
Into his freshened soul ; her genial hours
He full enjoys ; and not a beauty blows,
And not an opening blossom breathes in vain.
In Summer he, beneath the living shade,
Such as o'er frigid Tempè wont to wave,
Or Hemus cool, reads what the Muse, of these,
Perhaps, has in immortal numbers sung ;
Or what she dictates writes : and, oft an eye

Shot round, rejoices in the vigorous year.

When Autumn's yellow lustre gilds the world,
And tempts the sickled swain into the field,
Seized by the general joy, his heart distends
With gentle throes ; and, through the tepid gleams
Deep musing, then he best exerts his song.

E'en Winter wild to him is full of bliss.

The mighty tempest, and the hoary waste,
Abrupt and deep, stretched o'er the buried earth,
Awake to solemn thought. At night the skies,
Disclosed, and kindled, by refining frost,
Pour every lustre on th' exalted eye.

A friend, a book, the stealing hours secure,
And mark them down for wisdom. With swift wing
O'er land and sea imagination roams ;

Or truth, divinely breaking on his mind,
Elates his being, and unfolds his powers ;
Or in his breast heroic virtue burns.

The touch of kindred too and love he feels ;
The modest eye, whose beams on his alone
Ecstatic shine ; the little strong embrace
Of prattling children, twined around his neck,
And emulous to please him, calling forth
The fond parental soul. Nor purpose gay,
Amusement, dance, or song, he sternly scorns ;
For happiness and true philosophy
Are of the social, still, and smiling kind.

This is the life which those who fret in guilt,
And guilty cities, never knew ; the life
Led by primeval ages, uncorrupt,
When angels dwelt, and God himself, with man !

Oh Nature ! all-sufficient ! over all !
Enrich me with the knowledge of thy works ;
Snatch me to heaven ; thy rolling wonders there,
World beyond world, in infinite extent,
Profusely scattered o'er the blue immense,
Show me ; their motions, periods, and their laws,

Give me to scan ; through the disclosing deep
Light my blind way : the mineral strata there ;
Thrust, blooming, thence the vegetable world ;
O'er that the rising system, more complex,
Of animals ; and, higher still, the mind,
The varied scene of quick-compounded thought,
And where the mixing passions endless shift ;
These ever open to my ravished eye ;
A search, the flight of time can ne'er exhaust !
But if to that unequal,—if the blood,
In sluggish streams about my heart, forbid
That best ambition,—under closing shades,
Inglorious, lay me by the lowly brook,
And whisper to my dreams. From Thee begin,
Dwell all on Thee, with Thee conclude my song
And let me never, never stray from Thee !

WINTER.

ARGUMENT.

THE subject proposed. Address to the Earl of Wilmington. First approach of Winter. According to the natural course of the season, various storms described. Rain. Wind. Snow. The driving of the snows; a man perishing among them; whence reflections on the wants and miseries of human life. The wolves descending from the Alps and Apennines. A winter-evening described; as spent by philosophers; by the country people; in the city. Frost. A view of winter within the polar circle. A thaw. The whole concluding with moral reflections on a future state.

WINTER.

SEE, Winter comes, to rule the varied year,
Sullen and sad, with all his rising train,
Vapours, and clouds, and storms. Be these my theme,
These ! that exalt the soul to solemn thought,
And heavenly musing. Welcome, kindred glooms !
Congenial horrors, hail ! with frequent foot,
Pleased have I, in my cheerful morn of life,
When nursed by careless Solitude I lived,
And sung of Nature with unceasing joy,
Pleased have I wandered through your rough domain ;
Trod the pure virgin-snows, myself as pure ;
Heard the winds roar, and the big torrent burst ;
Or seen the deep-fermenting tempest brewed
In the grim evening sky. Thus passed the time,
Till through the lucid chambers of the south
Looked out the joyous Spring, looked out, and smiled.

To thee, the patron of her first essay,
The Muse, O Wilmington ! renews her song.
Since has she rounded the revolving year :
Skimmed the gay Spring ; on eagle-pinions borne,
Attempted through the Summer-blaze to rise ;
Then swept o'er Autumn with the shadowy gale ;
And now among the wintry clouds again,
Rolled in the doubling storm, she tries to soar ;
To swell her note with all the rushing winds ;

To suit her sounding cadence to the floods ;
As is her theme, her numbers wildly great :
Thrice happy could she fill thy judging ear
With bold description, and with manly thought.
Nor art thou skilled in awful schemes alone,
And how to make a mighty people thrive ;
But equal goodness, sound integrity,
A firm, unshaken, uncorrupted soul
Amid a sliding age, and burning strong,
Not vainly blazing, for thy country's weal,
A steady spirit regularly free ;
These, each exalting each, the statesman light
Into the patriot ; these, the public hope
And eye to thee converting, bid the Muse
Record what Envy dares not flattery call.

Now when the cheerless empire of the sky
To Capricorn the Centaur Archer yields,
And fierce Aquarius stains th' inverted year ;
Hung o'er the furthest verge of heaven, the sun
Scarce spreads through ether the dejected day.
Faint are his gleams, and ineffectual shoot
His struggling rays, in horizontal lines,
Through the thick air ; as clothed in cloudy storm,
Weak, wan, and broad, he skirts the southern sky ;
And, soon descending, to the long dark night,
Wide-shading all, the prostrate world resigns.
Nor is the night unwished ; while vital heat,
Light, life, and joy, the dubious day forsake.
Meantime, in sable cincture, shadows vast,
Deep-tinged and damp, and congregated clouds,
And all the vapoury turbulence of heaven,
Involve the face of things. Thus Winter falls,
A heavy gloom oppressive o'er the world,
Through Nature shedding influence malign,
And rouses up the seeds of dark disease,
The soul of man dies in him, loathing life,
And black with more than melancholy views.

The cattle droop ; and o'er the furrowed land,
 Fresh from the plough, the dun discoloured flocks,
 Untended spreading, crop the wholesome root.
 Along the woods, along the moorish fens,
 Sighs the sad Genius of the coming storm ;
 And up among the loose disjointed cliffs,
 And fractured mountains wild, the brawling brook
 And cave, presageful, send a hollow moan,
 Resounding long in listening Fancy's ear.

Then comes the father of the tempest forth,
 Wrapt in black glooms. First joyless rains obscure,
 Drive through the mingling skies with vapour foul ;
 Dash on the mountain's brow, and shake the woods,
 That grumbling wave below. Th' unsightly plain
 Lies a brown deluge ; as the low-bent clouds
 Pour flood on flood, yet, unexhausted, still
 Combine, and deepening into night shut up
 The day's fair face. The wanderers of heaven,
 Each to his home, retire ; save those that love
 To take their pastime in the troubled air,
 Or skimming flutter round the dimply pool.
 The cattle from th' untasted fields return,
 And ask, with meaning low, their wonted stalls,
 Or ruminatè in the contiguous shade.
 Thither the household feathery people crowd,
 The crested cock, with all his female train,
 Pensive, and dripping ; while the cottage hind
 Hangs o'er th' enlivening blaze, and taleful there
 Recounts his simple frolic : much he talks,
 And much he laughs, nor recks the storm that blows
 Without, and rattles on his humble roof.

Wide o'er the brim, with many a torrent swelled,
 And the mixed ruin of its banks o'erspread,
 At last the roused-up river pours along :
 Resistless, roaring, dreadful, down it comes
 From the rude mountain, and the mossy wild,
 Tumbling through rocks abrupt, and sounding far ;

Then o'er the sanded valley floating spreads,
 Calm, sluggish, silent ; till again, constrained
 Between two meeting hills, it bursts away,
 Where rocks and woods o'erhang the turbid stream ;
 There gathering triple force, rapid, and deep,
 It boils, and wheels, and foams, and thunders through.

Nature ! great parent ! whose unceasing hand
 Rolls round the seasons of the changeful year,
 How mighty, how majestic, are thy works !
 With what a pleasing dread they swell the soul,
 That sees astonished, and astonished sings !
 Ye too, ye winds ! that now begin to blow
 With boisterous sweep, I raise my voice to you.
 Where are your stores, ye powerful beings ! say,
 Where your aërial magazines reserved,
 To swell the brooding terrors of the storm ?
 In what far distant region of the sky,
 Hushed in deep silence, sleep ye when 'tis calm ?

When from the pallid sky the sun descends,
 With many a spot, that o'er his glaring orb
 Uncertain wanders, stained ; red fiery streaks
 Begin to flush around. The reeling clouds
 Stagger with dizzy poise, as doubting yet ;
 Which master to obey ; while rising slow,
 Blank, in the leaden-coloured east, the moon
 Wears a wan circle round her blunted horns.
 Seen through the turbid fluctuating air,
 The stars obtuse emit a shivered ray ;
 Or frequent seem to shoot athwart the gloom,
 And long behind them trail the whitening blaze.
 Snatched in short eddies, plays the withered leaf ;
 And on the flood the dancing feather floats.
 With broadened nostrils to the sky up-turned,
 The conscious heifer snuffs the stormy gale.
 E'en as the matron, at her nightly task,
 With pensive labour draws the flaxen thread,
 The wasted taper and the crackling flame

Foretel the blast. But chief the plummy race,
The tenants of the sky, its changes speak.
Retiring from the downs, where all day long
They picked their scanty fare, a blackening train
Of clamorous rooks thick-urge their weary flight,
And seek the closing shelter of the grove.
Assiduous, in his bower, the wailing owl
Plies his sad song. The cormorant on high
Wheels from the deep, and screams along the land.
Loud shrieks the soaring hern ; and with wild wing
The circling sea-fowl cleave the flaky clouds.
Ocean, unequal pressed, with broken tide
And blind commotion heaves ; while from the shore,
Eat into caverns by the restless wave,
And forest-rustling mountain, comes a voice,
That solemn sounding bids the world prepare.
Then issues forth the storm with sudden burst,
And hurls the whole precipitated air
Down in a torrent. On the passive main
Descends th' ethereal force, and with strong gust
Turns from its bottom the discoloured deep.
Through the black night that sits immense around,
Lashed into foam, the fierce conflicting brine
Seems o'er a thousand raging waves to burn :
Meantime the mountain-billows, to the clouds
In dreadful tumult swelled, surge above surge,
Burst into chaos with tremendous roar,
And anchored navies from their stations drive,
Wild as the winds, across the howling waste
Of mighty waters : now th' inflated wave
Straining they scale, and now impetuous shoot
Into the secret chambers of the deep,
The wintry Baltic thundering o'er their head.
Emerging thence again, before the breath
Of full-exerted heaven they wing their course,
And dart on distant coasts ; if some sharp rock,

Or shoal insidious break not their career,
And in loose fragments fling them floating round.

Nor less on land the loosened tempest reigns.
The mountain thunders ; and its sturdy sons
Stoop to the bottom of the rocks they shade.
Lone on the midnight steep, and all aghast,
The dark way-faring stranger breathless toils,
And, often falling, climbs against the blast.
Low waves the rooted forest, vexed, and sheds
What of its tarnished honours yet remain ;
Dashed down, and scattered, by the tearing wind's
Assiduous fury, its gigantic limbs.

Thus struggling through the dissipated grove,
The whirling tempest raves along the plain ;
And on the cottage thatched, or lordly roof,
Keen-fastening, shakes them to the solid base.
Sleep frightened flies ; and round the rocking dome,
For entrance eager, howls the savage blast.
Then too, they say, through all the burdened air,
Long groans are heard, shrill sounds, and distant sighs,
That, uttered by the Demon of the night,
Warn the devoted wretch of woe and death.

Huge Up roar lords it wide. The clouds commixed
With stars swift gliding sweep along the sky.
All Nature reels. Till Nature's King, who oft
Amid tempestuous darkness dwells alone,
And on the wings of the careering wind
Walks dreadfully serene, commands a calm ;
Then straight air, sea, and earth, are hushed at once.

As yet 'tis midnight deep. The weary clouds,
Slow-meeting, mingle into solid gloom.
Now, while the drowsy world lies lost in sleep,
Let me associate with the serious Night,
And Contemplation, her sedate compeer ;
Let me shake off th' intrusive cares of day,
And lay the meddling senses all aside.

Where now, ye lying vanities of life !
 Ye ever-tempting, ever-cheating train !
 Where are you now ? and what is your amount ?
 Vexation, disappointment, and remorse.
 Sad, sickening thought ! and yet deluded man,
 A scene of crude disjointed visions passed,
 And broken slumbers, rises still resolved,
 With new-flushed hopes, to run the giddy round.

Father of light and life ! thou Good Supreme !
 O teach me what is good ! teach me Thyself !
 Save me from folly, vanity, and vice,
 From every low pursuit ! and feed my soul
 With knowledge, conscious peace, and virtue pure ;
 Sacred, substantial, never-fading bliss !

The keener tempests rise : and fuming dun
 From all the livid east, or piercing north,
 Thick clouds ascend ; in whose capacious womb
 A vapoury deluge lies, to snow congealed ;
 Heavy they roll their fleecy world along,
 And the sky saddens with the gathered storm.
 Through the hushed air the whitening shower descends,
 At first thin wavering ; till at last the flakes
 Fall broad, and wide, and fast, dimming the day
 With a continual flow. The cherished fields
 Put on their winter-robe of purest white.
 'Tis brightness all, save where the new snow melts
 Along the mazy current. Low the woods
 Bow their hoar head ; and ere the languid sun
 Faint from the west emits his evening ray,
 Earth's universal face, deep hid, and chill,
 Is one wild dazzling waste, that buries wide
 The works of man. Drooping, the labourer ox
 Stands covered o'er with snow, and then demands
 The fruit of all his toil. The fowls of heaven,
 Tamed by the cruel season, crowd around
 The winnowing store, and claim the little boon
 Which Providence assigns them. One alone,

The red-breast, sacred to the household gods,
 Wisely regardful of th' embroiling sky,
 In joyless fields and thorny thickets leaves
 His shivering mates, and pays to trusted man
 His annual visit. Half-afraid, he first
 Against the window beats; then, brisk, alights
 On the warm hearth; then, hopping o'er the floor,
 Eyes all the smiling family askance,
 And pecks, and starts, and wonders where he is:
 'Till, more familiar grown, the table-crums
 Attract his slender feet. The foodless wilds
 Pour forth their brown inhabitants. The hare,
 Though timorous of heart, and hard beset
 By death in various forms, dark snares, and dogs,
 And more unpitying men, the garden seeks,
 Urged on by fearless want. The bleating kind
 Eye the bleak heaven, and next the glistening earth,
 With looks of dumb despair; then, sad-dispersed,
 Dig for the withered herb through heaps of snow.

Now, shepherds, to your helpless charge be kind,
 Baffle the raging year, and fill their pens
 With food at will; lodge them below the storm,
 And watch them strict; for from the bellowing east,
 In this dire season, oft the whirlwind's wing
 Sweeps up the burden of whole wintry plains
 At one wide waft, and o'er the hapless flocks,
 Hid in the hollow of two neighbouring hills,
 The billowy tempest whelms; till, upward urged,
 The valley to a shining mountain swells,
 Tipped with a wreath high-curling in the sky.

As thus the snows arise; and foul, and fierce,
 All Winter drives along the darkened air;
 In his own loose-revolving fields the swain
 Disastered stands; sees other hills ascend,
 Of unknown joyless brow; and other scenes,
 Of horrid prospect, shag the trackless plain:
 Nor finds the river, nor the forest, hid

Beneath the formless wild ; but wanders on
From hill to dale, still more and more astray ;
Impatient flouncing through the drifted heaps,
Stung with the thoughts of home ; the thoughts of home
Rush on his nerves, and call their vigour forth
In many a vain attempt. How sinks his soul !
What black despair, what horror fills his heart !
When for the dusky spot, which fancy feigned
His tufted cottage rising through the snow,
He meets the roughness of the middle waste,
Far from the track and blest abode of man ;
While round him night resistless closes fast,
And every tempest, howling o'er his head,
Renders the savage wilderness more wild.
Then throug the busy shapes into his mind
Of covered pits, unfathomably deep,
A dire descent ! beyond the power of frost ;
Of faithless bogs ; of precipices huge,
Smoothed up with snow ; and what is land unknown,
What water, of the still unfrozen spring,
In the loose marsh or solitary lake,
Where the fresh fountain from the bottom boils.
These check his fearful steps ; and down he sinks,
Beneath the shelter of the shapeless drift,
Thinking o'er all the bitterness of death ;
Mixed with the tender anguish Nature shoots
Through the wrung bosom of the dying man,
His wife, his children, and his friends unseen.
In vain for him th' officious wife prepares
The fire fair-blazing, and the vestment warm ;
In vain his little children, peeping out
Into the mingling storm, demand their sire,
With tears of artless innocence. Alas !
Nor wife, nor children, more shall he behold ;
Nor friends, nor sacred home. On every nerve
The deadly Winter seizes ; shuts up sense ;
And, o'er his inmost vitals creeping cold,

Lays him along the snows, a stiffened corse,
Stretched out, and bleaching in the northern blast.

Ah ! little think the gay licentious proud,
Whom pleasure, power, and affluence surround ;
They who their thoughtless hours in giddy mirth,
And wanton, often cruel, riot waste ;
Ah ! little think they, while they dance along,
How many feel, this very moment, death,
And all the sad variety of pain.
How many sink in the devouring flood,
Or more devouring flame. How many bleed,
By shameful variance betwixt man and man.
How many pine in want, and dungeon glooms ;
Shut from the common air and common use
Of their own limbs. How many drink the cup
Of baleful grief, or eat the bitter bread
Of misery. Sore pierced by wintry winds,
How many shrink into the sordid hut
Of cheerless poverty. How many shake
With all the fiercer tortures of the mind,
Unbounded passion, madness, guilt, remorse ;
Whence tumbled headlong from the height of life,
They furnish matter for the tragic Muse ;
E'en in the vale where Wisdom loves to dwell,
With Friendship, Peace, and Contemplation joined,
How many, racked with honest passions, droop
In deep retired distress. How many stand
Around the death-bed of their dearest friends,
And point the parting anguish. Thought fond man
Of these, and all the thousand nameless ills,
That one incessant struggle render life
One scene of toil, of suffering, and of fate,
Vice in his high career would stand appalled,
And heedless rambling Impulse learn to think ;
The conscious heart of Charity would warm,
And her wide wish Benevolence dilate ;
The social tear would rise, the social sigh ;

And into clear perfection, gradual bliss,
Refining still, the social passions work.

And here can I forget the generous band*,
Who, touched with human woe, redressive searched
Into the horrors of the gloomy gaol,
Unpitied, and unheard, where Misery moans,
Where Sickness pines, where Thirst and Hunger burn,
And poor Misfortune feels the lash of Vice.
While in the land of Liberty, the land
Whose every street and public meeting glow
With open freedom, little tyrants raged;
Snatched the lean morsel from the starving mouth;
Tore from cold wintry limbs the tattered weed;
E'en robbed them of the last of comforts, sleep;
The free-born Briton to the dungeon chained,
Or, as the lust of cruelty prevailed,
At pleasure marked him with inglorious stripes;
And crushed out lives, by secret barbarous ways,
That for their country would have toiled or bled.
O great design! if executed well,
With patient care, and wisdom-tempered zeal.
Ye sons of Mercy! yet resume the search,
Drag forth the legal monsters into light,
Wrench from their hands oppression's iron rod,
And bid the cruel feel the pains they give.
Much still untouched remains; in this rank age,
Much is the patriot's weeding hand required.
The toils of law (what dark insidious men
Have cumbrous added to perplex the truth,
And lengthen simple justice into trade)
How glorious were the day that saw these broke,
And every man within the reach of right!

By wintry famine roused, from all the tract
Of horrid mountains which the shining Alps,
And wavy Apennine, and Pyrenees,
Branch out stupendous into distant lands;

* The Gaol Committee, in the year 1729.

Cruel as death, and hungry as the grave !
Burning for blood, bony, and gaunt, and grim !
Assembling wolves in raging troops descend ;
And, pouring o'er the country, bear along,
Keen as the north-wind sweeps the glossy snow.
All is their prize. They fasten on the steed,
Press him to earth, and pierce his mighty heart.
Nor can the bull his awful front defend,
Or shake the murdering savages away.
Rapacious, at the mother's throat they fly,
And tear the screaming infant from her breast.
The godlike face of man avails him nought.
E'en beauty, force divine ! at whose bright glance
The generous lion stands in softened gaze,
Here bleeds, a hapless undistinguished prey.
But if, apprised of the severe attack,
The country be shut up, lured by the scent,
On churchyards drear (inhuman to relate !)
The disappointed prowlers fall, and dig
The shrouded body from the grave ; o'er which,
Mixed with foul shades and frightened ghosts, they howl.

Among those hilly regions, where embraced
In peaceful vales the happy Grisons dwell ;
Oft, rushing sudden from the loaded cliffs,
Mountains of snow their gathering terrors roll.
From steep to steep, loud-thundering down they come,
A wintry waste in dire commotion all ;
And herds, and flocks, and travellers, and swains,
And sometimes whole brigades of marching troops,
Or hamlets sleeping in the dead of night,
Are deep beneath the smothering ruin whelmed.

Now, all amid the rigours of the year,
In the wild depth of Winter, while without
The ceaseless winds blow ice, be my retreat,
Between the groaning forest and the shore
Beat by the boundless multitude of waves,
A rural, sheltered, solitary scene ;

Where ruddy fire and beaming tapers join
 To cheer the gloom. There studious let me sit,
 And hold high converse with the mighty Dead ;
 Sages of ancient time, as gods revered,
 As gods beneficent, who blessed mankind
 With arts, with arms, and humanised a world.
 Roused at th' inspiring thought, I throw aside
 The long-lived volume ; and, deep-musing, hail
 The sacred shades, that slowly-rising pass
 Before my wondering eyes. First Socrates,
 Who, firmly good in a corrupted state,
 Against the rage of tyrants single stood,
 Invincible ! calm Reason's holy law,
 That Voice of God within th' attentive mind,
 Obeying, fearless, or in life, or death :
 Great moral teacher ! wisest of mankind !
 Solon the next, who built his common weal
 On equity's wide base ; by tender laws
 A lively people curbing, yet undamped ;
 Preserving still that quick peculiar fire,
 Whence in the laurelled field of finer arts
 And of bold freedom, they unequalled shone,
 The pride of smiling Greece, and human kind.
 Lycurgus then, who bowed beneath the force
 Of strictest discipline, severely wise,
 All human passions. Following him, I see,
 As at Thermopylæ he glorious fell,
 The firm devoted chief *, who proved by deeds
 The hardest lesson which the other taught.
 Then Aristides lifts his honest front ;
 Spotless of heart, to whom th' unflattering voice
 Of Freedom gave the noblest name of Just ;
 In pure majestic poverty revered ;
 Who, e'en his glory to his country's weal
 Submitting, swelled a haughty Rival's † fame.
 Reared by his care, of softer ray appears

* Leonidas.

† Themistocles.

Cimon, sweet-souled ; whose genius, rising strong,
 Shook off the load of young debauch, abroad
 The scourge of Persian pride, at home the friend
 Of every worth and every splendid art ;
 Modest, and simple, in the pomp of wealth.
 Then the last worthies of declining Greece,
 Late called to glory, in unequal times,
 Pensive, appear. The fair Corinthian boast,
 Timoleon, happy temper ! mild, and firm,
 Who wept the brother while the tyrant bled.
 And, equal to the best, the Theban pair *,
 Whose virtues, in heroic concord joined,
 Their country raised to freedom, empire, fame.
 He too, with whom Athenian honour sunk,
 And left a mass of sordid lees behind,
 Phocion the Good ; in public life severe,
 To virtue still inexorably firm ;
 But when, beneath his low illustrious roof,
 Sweet Peace and happy Wisdom smoothed his brow,
 Not Friendship softer was, nor Love more kind.
 And he, the last of old Lycurgus' sons,
 The generous victim to that vain attempt,
 To save a rotten state, Agis, who saw
 E'en Sparta's self to servile avarice sunk,
 The two Achaian heroes close the train :
 Aratus, who awhile relumed the soul
 Of fondly lingering Liberty in Greece ;
 And he her darling ; as her latest hope,
 The gallant Philopœmen ; who to arms
 Turned the luxurious pomp he could not cure ;
 Or toiling in his farm, a simple swain ;
 Or, bold and skilful, thundering in the field.
 Of rougher front, a mighty people come !
 A race of heroes ! in those virtuous times
 Which knew no stain, save that with partial flame
 Their dearest country they too fondly loved :

* Pelopidas and Epaminondas.

Her better Founder first, the light of Rome,
 Numa, who softened her rapacious sons ;
 Servius the king, who laid the solid base
 On which o'er earth the vast republic spread.
 Then the great consuls venerable rise :
 The public Father * who the private quelled,
 As on the dread tribunal sternly sad ;
 He, whom his thankless country could not lose,
 Camillus, only vengeful to her foes ;
 Fabricius, scorner of all-conquering gold ;
 And Cincinnatus, awful from the plough.
 Thy willing victim †, Carthage, bursting loose
 From all that pleading Nature could oppose,
 From a whole city's tears, by rigid faith
 Imperious called, and Honour's dire command ;
 Scipio, the gentle chief, humanely brave,
 Who soon the race of spotless glory ran,
 And, warm in youth, to the poetic shade
 With Friendship and Philosophy retired ;
 Tully, whose powerful eloquence awhile
 Restrained the rapid fate of rushing Rome ;
 Unconquered Cato, virtuous in extreme ;
 And thou, unhappy Brutus, kind of heart,
 Whose steady arm, by awful virtue urged,
 Lifted the Roman steel against thy friend :
 Thousands besides the tribute of a verse
 Demand ; but who can count the stars of heaven ?
 Who sing their influence on this lower world ?

Behold, who yonder comes ! in sober state,
 Fair, mild, and strong, as is a vernal sun :
 'Tis Phœbus' self, or else the Mantuan Swain !
 Great Homer too appears, of daring wing,
 Parent of song ! and, equal by his side,
 The British Muse ; joined hand in hand they walk,
 Darkling, full up the middle steep to fame.
 Nor absent are those shades, whose skilful touch

* Marcus Junius Brutus.

† Regulus.

Pathetic drew th' impassioned heart, and charmed
 Transported Athens with the moral scene ;
 Nor those who, tuneful, waked th' enchanting lyre.

First of your kind ! society divine !
 Still visit thus my nights, for you reserved,
 And mount my soaring soul to thoughts like yours.
 Silence, thou lonely power ! the door be thine ;
 See on the hallowed hour that none intrude,
 Save a few chosen friends, who sometimes deign
 To bless my humble roof, with sense refined,
 Learning digested well, exalted faith,
 Unstudied wit, and humour ever gay.
 Or from the Muses' hill will Pope descend,
 To raise the sacred hour, to bid it smile,
 And with the social spirit warm the heart ?
 For though not sweeter his own Homer sings,
 Yet is his life the more endearing song.

Where art thou, Hammond ? thou, the darling pride,
 The friend and lover of the tuneful throng !
 Ah why, dear youth, in all the blooming prime
 Of vernal genius, where disclosing fast
 Each active worth, each manly virtue lay,
 Why wert thou ravished from our hope so soon ?
 What now avails that noble thirst of fame,
 Which stung thy fervent breast ? that treasured store
 Of knowledge early gained ? that eager zeal
 To serve thy country, glowing in the band
 Of youthful patriots, who sustain her name ?
 What now, alas ! that life-diffusing charm
 Of sprightly wit ? that rapture for the Muse,
 That heart of friendship, and that soul of joy,
 Which bade with softest light thy virtues smile ?
 Ah ! only showed, to check our fond pursuits,
 And teach our humbled hopes that life is vain !

'Thus in some deep retirement would I pass
 The winter-glooms, with friends of pliant soul,
 Or blithe, or solemn, as the theme inspired,

With them would search, if Nature's boundless frame
Was called, late-rising from the void of night,
Or sprung eternal from th' Eternal Mind ;
Its life, its laws, its progress, and its end.
Hence larger prospects of the beauteous whole
Would, gradual, open on our opening minds ;
And each diffusive harmony unite
In full perfection to th' astonished eye.
Then would we try to scan the moral world,
Which, though to us it seems embroiled, moves on
In higher order ; fitted and impelled
By Wisdom's finest hand, and issuing all
In general good. The sage historic Muse
Should next conduct us through the deeps of time :
Show us how empire grew, declined, and fell,
In scattered states ; what makes the nations smile,
Improves their soil, and gives them double suns ;
And why they pine beneath the brightest skies,
In Nature's richest lap. As thus we talked,
Our hearts would burn within us, would inhale
That portion of divinity, that ray
Of purest heaven, which lights the public soul
Of patriots and of heroes. But if doomed,
In powerless humble fortune, to repress
These ardent risings of the kindling soul ;
Then, e'en superior to ambition, we
Would learn the private virtues : how to glide
Through shades and plains, along the smoothest stream
Of rural life ; or snatched away by Hope,
Through the dim spaces of futurity,
With earnest eye anticipate those scenes
Of happiness and wonder ; where the mind,
In endless growth and infinite ascent,
Rises from state to state, and world to world.
But, when with these the serious thought is foiled,
We, shifting for relief, would play the shapes
Of frolic Fancy ; and incessant form

Those rapid pictures, that assembled train
 Of fleet ideas, never joined before,
 Whence lively Wit excites to gay surprise ;
 Or folly-painting Humour, grave himself,
 Calls Laughter forth, deep-shaking every nerve.

Meantime the village rouses up the fire ;
 While well-attested, and as well believed,
 Heard solemn, goes the goblin story round ;
 Till superstitious horror creeps o'er all.
 Or, frequent in the sounding hall, they wake
 The rural gambol. Rustic mirth goes round ;
 The simple joke that takes the shepherd's heart,
 Easily pleased ; the long loud laugh, sincere ;
 The kiss, snatched hasty from the side-long maid,
 On purpose guardless, or pretending sleep :
 The leap, the slap, the haul ; and, shook to notes
 Of native music, the respondent dance.

Thus jocund fleets with them the winter-night.

The city swarms intense. The public haunt,
 Full of each theme, and warm with mixed discourse,
 Hums indistinct. The sons of riot flow
 Down the loose stream of false enchanted joy,
 To swift destruction. On the rankled soul
 The gaming fury falls ; and in one gulf
 Of total ruin, honour, virtue, peace,
 Friends, families, and fortune, headlong sink.
 Up-springs the dance along the lighted dome,
 Mixed and evolved, a thousand sprightly ways.
 The glittering court effuses every pomp ;
 The circle deepens : beamed from gaudy robes,
 Tapers, and sparkling gems, and radiant eyes,
 A soft effulgence o'er the palace waves :
 While, a gay insect in his summer-shine,
 The fop, light-fluttering, spreads his mealy wings.

Dread o'er the scene, the ghost of Hamlet stalks ;
 Othello rages ; poor Monimia mourns ;
 And Belvidera pours her soul in love.

Terror alarms the breast ; the comely tear
 Steals o'er the cheek : or else the Comic Muse
 Holds to the world a picture of itself,
 And raises sly the fair impartial laugh.
 Sometimes she lifts her strain, and paints the scenes
 Of beauteous life ; whate'er can deck mankind,
 Or charm the heart, in generous Bevil showed.

O Thou, whose wisdom, solid yet refined,
 Whose patriot virtues, and consummate skill
 To touch the finer springs that move the world,
 Joined to whate'er the Graces can bestow,
 And all Apollo's animating fire,
 Give thee, with pleasing dignity, to shine
 At once the guardian, ornament, and joy,
 Of polished life ; permit the rural Muse,
 O Chesterfield ! to grace with thee her song,
 Ere to the shades again she humbly flies,
 Indulge her fond ambition, in thy train,
 (For every Muse has in thy train a place)
 To mark thy various full-accomplished mind :
 To mark that spirit, which, with British scorn,
 Rejects the allurements of corrupted power ;
 That elegant politeness, which excels,
 E'en in the judgment of presumptuous France,
 The boasted manners of her shining court ;
 That wit, the vivid energy of sense,
 The truth of Nature, which, with Attic point,
 And kind well-tempered satire, smoothly keen,
 Steals through the soul, and without pain corrects.
 Or, rising thence with yet a brighter flame,
 O let me hail thee on some glorious day,
 When to the listening senate, ardent, crowd
 Britannia's sons to hear her pleaded cause.
 Then, dressed by thee, more amiably fair,
 Truth the soft robe of mild Persuasion wears :
 Thou to assenting Reason giv'st again
 Her own enlightened thoughts ; called from the heart

Th' obedient passions on thy voice attend ;
 And e'en reluctant Party feels awhile
 Thy gracious power, as through the varied maze
 Of eloquence, now smooth, now quick, now strong,
 Profound and clear, you roll the copious flood.

To thy loved haunt return, my happy Muse ;
 For now, behold, the joyous winter-days,
 Frosty, succeed ; and through the blue serene,
 For sight too fine, th' ethereal nitre flies,
 Killing infectious damps, and the spent air
 Storing afresh with elemental life.

Close crowds the shining atmosphere, and binds
 Our strengthened bodies in its cold embrace,
 Constringent ; feeds and animates our blood ;
 Refines our spirits, through the new-strung nerves
 In swifter sallies darting to the brain ;
 Where sits the soul, intense, collected, cool,
 Bright as the skies, and as the season keen.

All Nature feels the renovating force
 Of Winter, only to the thoughtless eye
 In ruin seen. The frost-concocted glebe
 Draws in abundant vegetable soul,
 And gathers vigour for the coming year.
 A stronger glow sits on the lively cheek
 Of ruddy Fire, and luculent along
 The purer rivers flow ; their sullen deeps,
 Transparent, open to the shepherd's gaze,
 And murmur hoarser at the fixing frost.

What art thou, frost ? and whence are thy keen stores
 Derived, thou secret all-invading power,
 Whom e'en th' illusive fluid cannot fly ?
 Is not thy potent energy, unseen,
 Myriads of little salts, or hooked, or shaped
 Like double wedges, and diffused immense
 Through water, earth, and ether ? Hence at eve,
 Steamed eager from the red horizon round,
 With the fierce rage of Winter deep suffused,

An icy gale, oft shifting, o'er the pool
Breathes a blue film, and in its mid career
Arrests the bickering stream. The loosened ice,
Let down the flood, and half dissolved by day,
Rustles no more ; but to the sedgy bank
Fast grows, or gathers round the pointed stone,
A crystal pavement, by the breath of heaven
Cemented firm ; till, seized from shore to shore,
The whole imprisoned river growls below.
Loud rings the frozen earth, and hard reflects
'A double noise ; while, at his evening watch,
The village dog deters the nightly thief ;
The heifer lows ; the distant water-fall
Swells in the breeze ; and, with the hasty tread
Of traveller, the hollow-sounding plain
Shakes from afar. The full ethereal round,
Infinite worlds disclosing to the view,
Shines out intensely keen ; and, all one cope
Of starry glitter, glows from pole to pole.
From pole to pole the rigid influence falls,
Through the still night, incessant, heavy, strong,
And seizes Nature fast. It freezes on ;
Till Morn, late rising o'er the drooping world,
Lifts her pale eye unjoyous. Then appears
The various labour of the silent night :
Prone from the dripping eave, and dumb cascade,
Whose idle torrents only seem to roar,
The pendent icicle ; the frost-work fair,
Where transient hues, and fancied figures rise ;
Wide-spouted o'er the hill, the frozen brook,
A livid tract, cold-gleaming on the morn ;
The forest bent beneath the plummy wave ;
And by the frost refined the whiter snow,
Encrusted hard, and sounding to the tread
Of early shepherd, as he pensive seeks
His pining flock, or from the mountain top,
Pleased with the slippery surface, swift descends.

On blithesome frolics bent, the youthful swains,
While every work of man is laid at rest,
Fond o'er the river crowd, in various sport
And revelry dissolved ; where mixing glad,
Happiest of all the train ! the raptured boy
Lashes the whirling top. Or, where the Rhine
Branched out in many a long canal extends,
From every province swarming, void of care,
Batavia rushes forth ; and as they sweep,
On sounding skates, a thousand different ways,
In circling poise, swift as the winds, along,
The then gay land is maddened all to joy.
Nor less the northern courts, wide o'er the snow,
Pour a new pomp. Eager, on rapid sleds,
Their vigorous youth in bold contention wheel
The long-resounding course. Meantime, to raise
The manly strife, with highly blooming charms,
Flushed by the season, Scandinavia's dames,
Or Russia's buxom daughters, glow around.

Pure, quick, and sportful, is the wholesome day ;
But soon elapsed. The horizontal sun,
Broad o'er the south, hangs at its utmost noon,
And, ineffectual, strikes the gelid cliff ;
His azure gloss the mountain still maintains,
Nor feels the feeble touch. Perhaps the vale
Relents awhile to the reflected ray ;
Or from the forest falls the clustered snow,
Myriads of gems, that in the waving gleam
Gay-twinkle as they scatter. Thick around
Thunders the sport of those, who with the gun,
And dog impatient bounding at the shot,
Worse than the season desolate the fields ;
And, adding to the ruins of the year,
Distress the footed or the feathered game.

But what is this ? Our infant Winter sinks,
Divested of his grandeur, should our eye
Astonished shoot into the frigid zone,

Where, for relentless months, continual Night
 Holds o'er the glittering waste her starry reign.
 There, through the prison of unbounded wilds,
 Barred by the hand of Nature from escape,
 Wide roams the Russian exile. Nought around
 Strikes his sad eye but deserts lost in snow ;
 And heavy-loaded groves ; and solid floods
 That stretch athwart the solitary waste
 Their icy horrors to the frozen main ;
 And cheerless towns far distant, never blessed,
 Save when its annual course the caravan
 Bends to the golden coast of rich Cathay *,
 With news of human kind. Yet there life glows ;
 Yet cherished there, beneath the shining waste,
 The furry nations harbour : tipped with jet,
 Fair ermines, spotless as the snows they press ;
 Sables, of glossy black ; and dark embrowned,
 Or beauteous freaked with many a mingled hue,
 Thousands besides, the costly pride of courts.
 There, warm together pressed, the trooping deer
 Sleep on the new-fallen snows ; and, scarce his head
 Raised o'er the heapy wreath, the branching elk
 Lies slumbering sullen in the white abyss.
 The ruthless hunter wants nor dogs nor toils,
 Nor with the dread of sounding bows he drives
 The fearful flying race ; with ponderous clubs,
 As weak against the mountain-heaps they push
 Their beating breast in vain, and piteous bray,
 He lays them quivering on th' ensanguined snows,
 And with loud shouts rejoicing bears them home.
 There through the piny forest half absorbed,
 Rough tenant of these shades, the shapeless bear,
 With dangling ice all horrid, stalks forlorn ;
 Slow-paced, and sourer as the storms increase,
 He makes his bed beneath th' inclement drift,
 And with stern patience, scorning weak complaint
 Hardens his heart against assailing want.

* The old name for China.

Wide o'er the spacious regions of the north,
 That see Boötes urge his tardy wain,
 A boisterous race, by frosty Caurus * pierced,
 Who little pleasure know and fear no pain,
 Prolific swarm. They once relumed the flame
 Of lost mankind in polished slavery sunk ;
 Drove martial horde on horde †, with dreadful sweep
 Resistless rushing o'er the enfeebled south,
 And gave the vanquished world another form.
 Not such the sons of Lapland : wisely they
 Despise th' insensate barbarous trade of war ;
 They ask no more than simple Nature gives ;
 They love their mountains and enjoy their storms.
 No false desires, no pride-created wants,
 Disturb the peaceful current of their time ;
 And through the restless ever-tortured maze
 Of pleasure, or ambition, bid it rage.
 Their rein-deer form their riches. These their tents,
 Their robes, their beds, and all their homely wealth
 Supply, their wholesome fare and cheerful cups.
 Obsequious at their call, the docile tribe
 Yield to the sled their necks, and whirl them swift
 O'er hill and dale, heaped into one expanse
 Of marbled snow, as far as eye can sweep,
 With a blue crust of ice unbounded glazed.
 By dancing meteors then, that ceaseless shake
 A waving blaze refracted o'er the heavens,
 And vivid moons, and stars that keener play
 With doubled lustre from the glossy waste,
 E'en in the depth of polar night they find
 A wondrous day ; enough to light the chase,
 Or guide their daring steps to Finland fairs.
 Wished Spring returns ; and from the hazy south,
 While dim Aurora slowly moves before,
 The welcome sun, just verging up at first,

* The north-west wind.

† The wandering Scythian clans.

By small degrees extends the swelling curve,
 Till seen at last for gay rejoicing months,
 Still round and round his spiral course he winds,
 And, as he nearly dips his flaming orb,
 Wheels up again, and reascends the sky.
 In that glad season, from the lakes and floods,
 Where pure Niemi's fairy mountains rise,
 And fringed with roses Tenglio rolls his stream,
 They draw the copious fry. With these, at eve,
 They cheerful loaded to their tents repair ;
 Where, all day long in useful cares employed,
 Their kind unblemished wives the fire prepare.
 Thrice happy race ! by poverty secured
 From legal plunder and rapacious power :
 In whom fell interest never yet has sown
 The seeds of vice : whose spotless swains ne'er knew
 Injurious deed, nor, blasted by the breath
 Of faithless love, their blooming daughters woe.

Still pressing on, beyond Tornea's lake,
 And Hecla flaming through a waste of snow,
 And farthest Greenland, to the pole itself,
 Where, failing gradual, life at length goes out,
 The Muse expands her solitary flight ;
 And, hovering o'er the wild stupendous scene,
 Beholds new seas beneath another sky*.
 Throned in his palace of cerulean ice,
 Here Winter holds his unrejoicing court ;
 And through his airy hall the loud misrule
 Of driving tempest is for ever heard ;
 Here the grim tyrant meditates his wrath ;
 Here arms his winds with all-subduing frost,
 Moulds his fierce hail, and treasures up his snows,
 With which he now oppresses half the globe.

Thence winding eastward to the Tartar's coast,
 She sweeps the howling margin of the main ;
 Where undissolving, from the first of time,

* The other hemisphere.

Snows swell on snows amazing to the sky ;
 And icy mountains high on mountains piled
 Seem to the shivering sailor from afar,
 Shapeless and white, an atmosphere of clouds.
 Projected huge, and horrid o'er the surge,
 Alps frown on Alps ; or rushing hideous down,
 As if old Chaos were again returned,
 Wide-rend the deep, and shake the solid pole.
 Ocean itself no longer can resist
 The binding fury ; but, in all its rage
 Of tempest taken by the boundless frost,
 Is many a fathom to the bottom chained,
 And bid to roar no more : a bleak expanse,
 Shagged o'er with wavy rocks, cheerless, and void
 Of every life, that from the dreary months
 Flies conscious southward. Miserable they !
 Who, here entangled in the gathering ice,
 Take their last look of the descending sun ;
 While, full of death, and fierce with tenfold frost,
 The long long night, incumbent o'er their heads,
 Falls horrible. Such was the Briton's fate,
 As with first prow (what have not Britons dared !)
 He for the passage sought, attempted since
 So much in vain, and seeming to be shut
 By jealous Nature with eternal bars.
 In these fell regions, in Arzina caught,
 And to the stony deep his idle ship
 Immediate sealed, he with his hapless crew,
 Each full exerted at his several task,
 Froze into statues ; to the cordage glued
 The sailor, and the pilot to the helm.

Hard by these shores, where scarce his freezing stream
 Rolls the wild Oby, live the last of men ;
 And half enlivened by the distant sun,
 That rears and ripens man, as well as plants,
 Here human nature wears its rudest form.
 Deep from the piercing season sunk in caves,

Here by dull fires, and with unjoyous cheer,
They waste the tedious gloom. Immersed in furs,
Doze the gross race. Nor sprightly jest, nor song,
Nor tenderness they know ; nor aught of life
Beyond the kindred bears that stalk without.
Till Morn at length, her roses drooping all,
Sheds a long twilight brightening o'er their fields,
And calls the quivered savage to the chase.

What cannot active government perform,
New-moulding man? Wide-stretching from these shores,
A people savage from remotest time,
A huge neglected empire, one vast mind,
By heaven inspired, from Gothic darkness called.
Immortal Peter ! first of monarchs ! He
His stubborn country tamed, her rocks, her fens,
Her floods, her seas, her ill-submitting sons ;
And while the fierce barbarian he subdued,
To more exalted soul he raised the man.
Ye shades of ancient heroes, ye who toiled
Through long successive ages to build up
A labouring plan of state, behold at once
The wonder done ! behold the matchless prince !
Who left his native throne, where reigned till then
A mighty shadow of unreal power ;
Who greatly spurned the slothful pomp of courts ;
And roaming every land, in every port
His sceptre laid aside, with glorious hand
Unwearied plying the mechanic tool,
Gathered the seeds of trade, of useful arts,
Of civil wisdom, and of martial skill.
Charged with the stores of Europe home he goes !
Then cities rise amid th' illumined waste ;
O'er joyless deserts smiles the rural reign ;
Far-distant flood to flood is social joined ;
Th' astonished Euxine hears the Baltic roar ;
Proud navies ride on seas that never foamed
With daring keel before ; and armies stretch

Each way their dazzling files, repressing here
 The frantic Alexander of the north,
 And awing there stern Othman's shrinking sons.
 Sloth flies the land, and Ignorance, and Vice,
 Of old dishonour proud ; it glows around,
 Taught by the royal hand that roused the whole,
 One scene of arts, of arms, of rising trade ;
 For what his wisdom planned, and power enforced,
 More potent still, his great example showed.

Muttering, the winds at eve, with blunted point,
 Blow hollow-blustering from the south. Subdued,
 The frost resolves into a trickling thaw.
 Spotted the mountains shine ; loose sleet descends,
 And floods the country round. 'The rivers swell,
 Of bonds impatient. Sudden from the hills,
 O'er rocks and woods, in broad brown cataracts,
 A thousand snow-fed torrents shoot at once ;
 And, where they rush, the wide-resounding plain
 Is left one slimy waste. Those sullen seas,
 That washed th' ungenial pole, will rest no more
 Beneath the shackles of the mighty north ;
 But, rousing all their waves, resistless heave.
 And hark ! the lengthening roar continuous runs
 Athwart the rifted deep : at once it bursts,
 And piles a thousand mountains to the clouds.
 Ill fares the bark, with trembling wretches charged,
 That, tossed amid the floating fragments, moors
 Beneath the shelter of an icy isle,
 While night o'erwhelms the sea, and horror looks
 More horrible. Can human force endure
 Th' assembled mischiefs that besiege them round ?
 Heart-gnawing hunger, fainting weariness,
 The roar of winds and waves, the crush of ice,
 Now ceasing, now renewed with louder rage,
 And in dire echoes bellowing round the main.
 More to embroil the deep, Leviathan
 And his unwieldy train, in dreadful sport,

Tempest the loosened brine, while through the gloom,
 Far from the bleak inhospitable shore,
 Loading the winds, is heard the hungry howl
 Of famished monsters, there awaiting wrecks.
 Yet Providence, that ever-waking eye,
 Looks down with pity on the feeble toil
 Of mortals lost to hope, and lights them safe
 Through all this dreary labyrinth of fate.

'Tis done ! dread Winter spreads his latest glooms,
 And reigns tremendous o'er the conquered Year.
 How dead the vegetable kingdom lies !
 How dumb the tuneful ! Horror wide extends
 His desolate domain. Behold, fond man !
 See here thy pictured life ; pass some few years,
 Thy flowering Spring, thy Summer's ardent strength,
 Thy sober Autumn fading into age,
 And pale concluding Winter comes at last,
 And shuts the scene. Ah ! whither now are fled
 Those dreams of greatness—those unsolid hopes
 Of happiness—those longings after fame—
 Those restless cares—those busy bustling days—
 Those gay-spent, festive nights—those veering thoughts,
 Lost between good and ill, that shared thy life ?
 All now are vanished ! Virtue sole survives,
 Immortal never-failing friend of man,
 His guide to happiness on high. And see !
 'Tis come, the glorious morn ! the second birth
 Of heaven and earth ! Awakening Nature hears
 The new-creating word, and starts to life,
 In every heightened form, from pain and death
 For ever free. The great eternal scheme,
 Involving all, and in a perfect whole
 Uniting, as the prospect wider spreads,
 To Reason's eye refined clears up apace.
 Ye vainly wise ! ye blind presumptuous ! now,
 Confounded in the dust, adore that Power
 And Wisdom oft arraigned : see now the cause

Why unassuming Worth in secret lived,
And died neglected,—why the good man's share
In life was gall and bitterness of soul,—
Why the lone widow and her orphans pined
In starving solitude, while Luxury
In palaces lay straining her low thought
To form unreal wants,—why heaven-born Truth,
And Moderation fair, wore the red marks
Of Superstition's scourge,—why licensed Pain,
That cruel spoiler, that embosomed foe,
Embittered all our bliss. Ye good distressed !
Ye noble few ! who here unbending stand
Beneath life's pressure, yet bear up awhile,
And what your bounded view, which only saw
A little part, deemed evil is no more :
The storms of Wintry Time will quickly pass,
And one unbounded Spring encircle all.

A HYMN.

THESE, as they change, Almighty Father, these
Are but the varied God. The rolling year
Is full of Thee. Forth in the pleasing Spring
Thy beauty walks, thy tenderness and love.
Wide flush the fields ; the softening air is balm ;
Echo the mountains round ; the forest smiles ;
And every sense and every heart is joy.
Then comes thy glory in the Summer-months,
With light and heat refulgent. Then thy sun
Shoots full perfection through the swelling year ;
And oft thy voice in dreadful thunder speaks ;
And oft at dawn, deep noon, or falling eve,
By brooks and groves, in hollow-whispering gales.
Thy bounty shines in Autumn unconfined,
And spreads a common feast for all that lives.
In Winter awful Thou ! with clouds and storms
Around Thee thrown, tempest o'er tempest rolled.
Majestic darkness ! on the whirlwind's wing
Riding sublime, Thou bidd'st the world adore,
And humblest Nature with thy northern blast.
Mysterious round ! what skill, what force divine,
Deep felt, in these appear ! a simple train,
Yet so delightful mixed, with such kind art,
Such beauty and beneficence combined,
Shade, unperceived, so softening into shade,

And all so forming a harmonious whole,
 That, as they still succeed, they ravish still.
 But wandering oft, with brute unconscious gaze,
 Man marks not Thee, marks not the mighty hand,
 That, ever-busy, wheels the silent spheres;
 Works in the secret deep; shoots, steaming, thence
 The fair profusion that o'erspreads the Spring;
 Flings from the sun direct the flaming day;
 Feeds every creature; hurls the tempest forth;
 And, as on earth this grateful change revolves,
 With transport touches all the springs of life.

Nature, attend! join, every living soul
 Beneath the spacious temple of the sky,
 In adoration join; and, ardent, raise
 One general song! To Him, ye vocal gales,
 Breathe soft, whose Spirit in your freshness breathes:
 Oh, talk of Him in solitary glooms!
 Where, o'er the rock, the scarcely waving pine
 Fills the brown shade with a religious awe.
 And ye, whose bolder note is heard afar,
 Who shake th' astonished world, lift high to heaven
 Th' impetuous song, and say from whom you rage.
 His praise, ye brooks, attune, ye trembling rills;
 And let me catch it as I muse along.
 Ye headlong torrents, rapid and profound,—
 Ye softer floods, that lead the humid maze
 Along the vale,—and thou, majestic main,
 A secret world of wonders in thyself,—
 Sound His stupendous praise; whose greater voice
 Or bids you roar, or bids your roarings fall.
 Soft-roll your incense, herbs, and fruits, and flowers,
 In mingled clouds to Him; whose sun exalts,
 Whose breath perfumes you, and whose pencil paints.
 Ye forests, bend, ye harvests, wave to Him;
 Breathe your still song into the reaper's heart,
 As home he goes beneath the joyous moon.
 Ye that keep watch in heaven, as earth asleep

Unconscious lies, effuse your mildest beams,
 Ye constellations, while your angels strike,
 Amid the spangled sky, the silver lyre.
 Great source of day ! best image here below
 Of thy Creator, ever pouring wide,
 From world to world, the vital ocean round,
 On Nature write with every beam His praise.
 The thunder rolls : be hushed the prostrate world ;
 While cloud to cloud returns the solemn hymn.
 Bleat out afresh, ye hills : ye mossy rocks,
 Retain the sound : the broad responsive low,
 Ye valleys, raise ; for the Great Shepherd reigns,
 And his unsuffering kingdom yet will come.
 Ye woodlands all, awake : a boundless song
 Burst from the groves ! and when the restless day,
 Expiring, lays the warbling world asleep,
 Sweetest of birds, sweet Philomela, charm
 The listening shades, and teach the night His praise.
 Ye chief, for whom the whole creation smiles,
 At once the head, the heart, and tongue of all,
 Crown the great hymn ! In swarming cities vast,
 Assembled men, to the deep organ join
 The long-resounding voice, oft breaking clear,
 At solemn pauses, through the swelling base ;
 And, as each mingling flame increases each,
 In one united ardour rise to heaven.
 Or if you rather choose the rural shade,
 And find a fane in every sacred grove ;
 There let the shepherd's flute, the virgin's lay,
 The prompting seraph, and the poet's lyre,
 Still sing the God of Seasons, as they roll !
 For me, when I forget the darling theme,
 Whether the blossom blows, the Summer ray
 Russets the plain, inspiring Autumn gleams,
 Or Winter rises in the blackening east ;
 Be my tongue mute, may Fancy paint no more,
 And, dead to joy, forget my heart to beat !

Should fate command me to the farthest verge
Of the green earth, to distant barbarous climes,
Rivers unknown to song ; where first the sun
Gilds Indian mountains, or his setting beam
Flames on th' Atlantic isles ; 'tis nought to me :
Since God is ever present, ever felt,
In the void waste as in the city full ;
And where He vital breathes there must be joy.
When e'en at last the solemn hour shall come,
And wing my mystic flight to future worlds,
I cheerful will obey ; there, with new powers,
Will rising wonders sing : I cannot go
Where Universal Love not smiles around,
Sustaining all yon orbs, and all their suns ;
From seeming Evil still educing Good,
And better thence again, and better still,
In infinite progression. But I lose
Myself in Him, in Light Ineffable !
Come then, expressive Silence, muse His praise.

THE
CASTLE OF INDOLENCE

CANTO I.

The castle hight of Indolence,
And its false luxury :
Where for a little time, alas !
We liv'd right jollily.

I.

O MORTAL man, who livest here by toil,
Do not complain of this thy hard estate ;
That like an emmet thou must ever moil,
Is a sad sentence of an ancient date ;
And, certes, there is for it reason great ;
For, though sometimes it makes thee weep and wail,
And curse thy star, and early drudge and late,
Withouten that would come a heavier bale,
Loose life, unruly passions, and diseases pale.

II.

In lowly dale, fast by a river's side,
With woody hill o'er hill encompass'd round,
A most enchanting wizard did abide,
Than whom a fiend more fell is nowhere found.
It was, I ween, a lovely spot of ground :
And there a season atween June and May,
Half prankt with spring, with summer half imbrown'd,
A listless climate made, where, sooth to say,
No living wight could work, ne cared e'en for play.

III.

Was nought around but images of rest :
Sleep-soothing groves, and quiet lawns between ;
And flowery beds that slumbrous influence kest,
From poppies breath'd ; and beds of pleasant green,
Where never yet was creeping creature seen.
Meantime, unnumber'd glitt'ring streamlets play'd,
And hurled every where their waters sheen ;
That, as they bicker'd through the sunny glade,
Though restless still themselves, a lulling murmur made.

IV.

Join'd to the prattle of the purling rills
Were heard the lowing herds along the vale,
And flocks loud bleating from the distant hills,
And vacant shepherds piping in the dale :
And, now and then, sweet Philomel would wail,
Or stock-doves plain amid the forest deep,
That drowsy rustled to the sighing gale ;
And still a coil the grasshopper did keep ;
Yet all these sounds yblent inclined all to sleep.

v.

Full in the passage of the vale, above,
 A sable, silent, solemn forest stood,
 Where nought but shadowy forms was seen to move,
 As Idless fancied in her dreaming mood :
 And up the hills, on either side, a wood
 Of blackening pines, aye waving to and fro,
 Sent forth a sleepy horror through the blood ;
 And where this valley winded out below,
 The murm'ring main was heard, and scarcely heard, to flow.

vi.

A pleasing land of drowsy head it was,
 Of dreams that wave before the half-shut eye ;
 And of gay castles in the clouds that pass,
 For ever flushing round a summer-sky :
 There eke the soft delights, that witchingly
 Instil a wanton sweetness through the breast,
 And the calm pleasures always hover'd nigh ;
 But whate'er smack'd of noyance, or unrest,
 Was far, far off expell'd from this delicious nest.

vii.

The landscape such, inspiring perfect ease,
 Where INDOLENCE (for so the wizard hight)
 Close hid his castle 'mid embowering trees,
 That half shut out the beams of Phoebus bright,
 And made a kind of checker'd day and night ;
 Meanwhile, unceasing at the massy gate,
 Beneath a spacious palm, the wicked wight
 Was placed ; and to his lute, of cruel fate
 And labour harsh, complain'd, lamenting man's estate.

VIII.

Thither continual pilgrims crowded still,
 From all the roads of earth that pass there by :
 For, as they chaunc'd to breathe on neighbouring hill,
 The freshness of this valley smote their eye,
 And drew them ever and anon more nigh ;
 Till clustering round th' enchanter false they hung,
 Ymolten with his siren melody ;
 While o'er the enfeebling lute his hand he flung,
 And to the trembling chords these tempting verses sung:—

IX.

“ Behold ! ye pilgrims of this earth, behold !
 See all, but man, with unearn'd pleasure gay :
 See her bright robes the butterfly unfold,
 Broke from her wintry tomb in prime of May !
 What youthful bride can equal her array ?
 Who can with her for easy pleasure vie ?
 From mead to mead with gentle wing to stray,
 From flower to flower on balmy gales to fly,
 Is all she has to do beneath the radiant sky.

X.

“ Behold the merry minstrels of the morn,
 The swarming songsters of the careless grove,
 Ten thousand throats ! that, from the flowering thorn,
 Hymn their good God, and carol sweet of love,
 Such grateful kindly raptures them emove :
 They neither plough, nor sow ; ne, fit for flail,
 E'er to the barn the nodden sheaves they drove ;
 Yet theirs each harvest dancing in the gale,
 Whatever crowns the hill, or smiles along the vale.

XI.

“ Outcast of nature, man ! the wretched thrall
Of bitter dropping sweat, of sweltry pain,
Of cares that eat away the heart with gall,
And of the vices, an inhuman train,
That all proceed from savage thirst of gain :
For when hard-hearted Int'rest first began
To poison earth, Astræa left the plain ;
Guile, Violence, and Murder seized on man,
And, for soft milky streams, with blood the rivers ran.

XII.

“ Come, ye, who still the cumbrous load of life
Push hard up hill ; but as the furthest steep
You trust to gain, and put an end to strife,
Down thunders back the stone with mighty sweep,
And hurls your labours to the valley deep,
For ever vain : come, and withouten fee,
I in oblivion will your sorrows steep,
Your cares, your toils ; will steep you in a sea
Of full delight : O come, ye weary wights, to me !

XIII.

“ With me, you need not rise at early dawn,
To pass the joyless day in various stounds ;
Or, louting low, on upstart Fortune fawn,
And sell fair honour for some paltry pounds ;
Or through the city take your dirty rounds,
To cheat, and dun, and lie, and visit pay,
Now flatt'ring base, now giving secret wounds ;
Or prowl in courts of law for human prey,
In venal senate thief, or rob on broad highway.

XIV.

“ No cocks, with me, to rustic labour call,
From village on to village sounding clear ;
To tardy swain no shrill-voic'd matrons squall ;
No dogs, no babes, no wives, to stun your ear ;
No hammers thump ; no horrid blacksmith sear,
Ne noisy tradesman your sweet slumbers start,
With sounds that are a misery to hear :
But all is calm, as would delight the heart
Of Sybarite of old, all nature, and all art.

XV.

“ Here nought but candour reigns, indulgent ease,
Good nature lounging, sauntering up and down :
They who are pleas'd themselves must always please ;
On others' ways they never squint a frown,
Nor heed what haps in hamlet or in town :
Thus, from the source of tender Indolence,
With milky blood the heart is overflown,
Is sooth'd and sweeten'd by the social sense ;
For Interest, Envy, Pride, and Strife are banish'd hence.

XVI.

“ What, what is virtue, but repose of mind,
A pure ethereal calm, that knows no storm,
Above the reach of wild Ambition's wind,
Above those passions that this world deform,
And torture man, a proud malignant worm ?
But here, instead, soft gales of passion play,
And gently stir the heart, thereby to form
A quicker sense of joy ; as breezes stray
Across th' enliven'd skies, and make them still more gay.

XVII.

“ The best of men have ever lov'd repose :
 They hate to mingle in the filthy fray ;
 Where the soul sours, and gradual rancour grows,
 Embitter'd more from peevish day to day.
 E'en those whom Fame has lent her fairest ray,
 The most renown'd of worthy wights of yore,
 From a base world at last have stol'n away :
 So Scipio, to the soft Cumæan shore
 Retiring, tasted joy he never knew before.

XVIII.

“ But if a little exercise you choose,
 Some zest for ease, 'tis not forbidden here :
 Amid the groves you may indulge the Muse,
 Or tend the blooms, and deck the vernal year ;
 Or softly stealing, with your wat'ry gear,
 Along the brooks, the crimson-spotted fry
 You may delude : the whilst, amus'd, you hear
 Now the hoarse stream, and now the zephyr's sigh,
 Attuned to the birds, and woodland melody.

XIX.

“ O grievous folly ! to heap up estate,
 Losing the days you see beneath the sun ;
 When, sudden, comes blind unrelenting Fate,
 And gives th' untasted portion you have won
 With ruthless toil, and many a wretch undone,
 To those who mock you, gone to Pluto's reign,
 There with sad ghosts to pine, and shadows dun :
 But sure it is of vanities most vain,
 To toil for what you here untoiling may obtain.”

XX.

He ceas'd. But still their trembling ears retain'd
 The deep vibrations of his witching song ;
 That, by a kind of magic power, constrain'd
 To enter in, pell-mell, the list'ning throng.
 Heaps pour'd on heaps, and yet they slipt along,
 In silent ease ; as when beneath the beam
 Of summer-moons, the distant woods among,
 Or by some flood all silver'd with the gleam,
 The soft-embodied fays through airy portal stream :

XXI.

By the smooth demon so it order'd was,
 And here his baneful bounty first began :
 Though some there were who would not further pass,
 And his alluring baits suspected han :
 The wise distrust the too fair-spoken man.
 Yet through the gate they cast a wishful eye :
 Not to move on, perdie, is all they can :
 For do their very best they cannot fly,
 But often each way look, and often sorely sigh.

XXII.

When this the watchful wicked wizard saw,
 With sudden spring he leap'd upon them straight ;
 And soon as touched by his unhallow'd paw,
 They found themselves within the cursed gate ;
 Full hard to be repass'd, like that of fate.
 Not stronger were of old the giant crew,
 Who sought to pull high Jove from regal state ;
 Though feeble wretch he seem'd, of sallow hue :
 Certes, who bides his grasp, will that encounter rue.

XXIII.

For whomsoe'er the villain takes in hand,
Their joints unknit, their sinews melt apace ;
As lithe they grow as any willow-wand,
And of their vanish'd force remains no trace :
So when a maiden fair, of modest grace,
In all her buxom blooming May of charms,
Is seized in some losel's hot embrace,
She waxeth very weakly, as she warms,
Then sighing yields her up to love's delicious harms.

XXIV.

Wak'd by the crowd, slow from his bench arose
A comely, full-spread porter, swoln with sleep :
His calm, broad, thoughtless aspect breath'd repose ;
And in sweet torpor he was plunged deep,
Ne could himself from ceaseless yawning keep ;
While o'er his eyes the drowsy liquor ran,
Through which his half-wak'd soul would faintly peep :
Then, taking his black staff, he call'd his man,
And roused himself as much as rouse himself he can.

XXV.

The lad leap'd lightly at his master's call :
He was, to weet, a little roguish page,
Save sleep and play who minded nought at all,
Like most the untaught striplings of his age.
This boy he kept each band to disengage,
Garters and buckles, task for him unfit,
But ill becoming his grave personage,
And which his portly paunch would not permit :
So this same limber page to all performed it.

XXVI.

Meantime, the master-porter wide display'd
 Great store of caps, of slippers, and of gowns ;
 Wherewith he those who enter'd in array'd,
 Loose as the breeze that plays along the downs,
 And waves the summer-woods when ev'ning frowns :
 O fair undress, best dress ! it checks no vein,
 But every flowing limb in pleasure drowns,
 And heightens ease with grace. This done, right fain,
 Sir porter sat him down, and turn'd to sleep again.

XXVII.

Thus easy rob'd, they to the fountain sped
 That in the middle of the court up-threw
 A stream, high spouting from its liquid bed,
 And falling back again in drizzly dew ;
 There each deep draughts, as deep he thirsted, drew :
 It was a fountain of nepenthe rare,
 Whence, as Dan Homer sings, huge pleasaunce grew,
 And sweet oblivion of vile earthly care ;
 Fair gladsome waking thoughts, and joyous dreams more
 fair.

XXVIII.

This rite perform'd, all inly pleas'd and still,
 Withouten tromp, was proclamation made :
 " Ye sons of Indolence, do what you will ;
 And wander where you list, through hall or glade ;
 Be no man's pleasure for another staid ;
 Let each as likes him best his hours employ,
 And curs'd be he who minds his neighbour's trade !
 Here dwells kind Ease and unreproving Joy :
 He little merits bliss who others can annoy."

XXIX.

Straight of these endless numbers, swarming round,
 As thick as idle motes in sunny ray,
 Not one eftsoons in view was to be found,
 But every man stroll'd off his own glad way,
 Wide o'er this ample court's blank area,
 With all the lodges that thereto pertain'd,
 No living creature could be seen to stray ;
 While solitude, and perfect silence reigned ;
 So that to think you dreamt you almost were constrain'd.

XXX.

As when a shepherd of the Hebrid-Isles*,
 Plac'd far amid the melancholy main,
 (Whether it be lone Fancy him beguiles ;
 Or that aërial beings sometimes deign
 To stand, embodied, to our senses plain)
 Sees on the naked hill, or valley low,
 The whilst in ocean Phœbus dips his wain,
 A vast assembly moving to and fro :
 Then all at once in air dissolves the wondrous show.

XXXI.

Ye gods of quiet, and of sleep profound !
 Whose soft dominion o'er this castle sways,
 And all the widely silent places round,
 Forgive me, if my trembling pen displays
 What never yet was sung in mortal lays.
 But how shall I attempt such arduous string ?
 I who have spent my nights, and nightly days,
 In this soul-deadening place loose loitering :
 Ah ! how shall I for this uprear my moulted wing ?

* The Hebrides, on the west coast of Scotland.

XXXII.

Come on, my Muse, nor stoop to low despair,
 Thou imp of Jove, touch'd by celestial fire !
 Thou yet shalt sing of war, and actions fair,
 Which the bold sons of Britain will inspire ;
 Of ancient bards thou yet shalt sweep the lyre ;
 Thou yet shalt tread in tragic pall the stage,
 Paint love's enchanting woes, the hero's ire,
 The sage's calm, the patriot's noble rage,
 Dashing Corruption down through every worthless age.

XXXIII.

The doors, that knew no shrill alarming bell,
 Ne cursed knocker plied by villain's hand,
 Self-open'd into halls, where, who can tell
 What elegance and grandeur wide expand ;
 The pride of Turkey and of Persia land ?
 Soft quilts on quilts, on carpets carpets spread,
 And couches stretch'd around in seemly band ;
 And endless pillows rise to prop the head ;
 So that each spacious room was one full-swelling bed ;

XXXIV.

And every where huge cover'd tables stood,
 With wines high flavour'd and rich viands crown'd,
 Whatever sprightly juice or tasteful food
 On the green bosom of this earth are found,
 And all old Ocean 'genders in his round :
 Some hand unseen these silently display'd,
 E'en undemanded by a sign or sound ;
 You need but wish, and, instantly obey'd,
 Fair rang'd the dishes rose, and thick the glasses play'd.

XXXV.

Here freedom reign'd, without the least alloy ;
 Nor gossip's tale, nor ancient maiden's gall,
 Nor saintly spleen durst murmur at our joy,
 And with envenom'd tongue our pleasures pall.
 For why ? there was but one great rule for all ;
 To wit, that each should work his own desire,
 And eat, drink, study, sleep, as it may fall,
 Or melt the time in love, or wake the lyre,
 And carol what, unbid, the Muses might inspire.

XXXVI.

The rooms with costly tapestry were hung,
 Where was inwoven many a gentle tale ;
 Such as of old the rural poets sung,
 Or of Arcadian or Sicilian vale :
 Reclining lovers, in the lonely dale,
 Pour'd forth at large the sweetly tortur'd heart ;
 Or, sighing tender passion, swell'd the gale,
 And taught charm'd Echo to resound their smart ;
 While flocks, woods, streams around, repose and peace
 impart.

XXXVII.

Those pleas'd the most, where, by a cunning hand,
 Depainted was the patriarchal age ;
 What time Dan Abra'am left the Chaldee land,
 And pastur'd on from verdant stage to stage,
 Where fields and fountains fresh could best engage.
 Toil was not then : of nothing took they heed,
 But with wild beasts the sylvan war to wage,
 And o'er vast plains their herds and flocks to feed :
 Bless'd sons of Nature they ! true golden age indeed !

XXXVIII.

Sometimes the pencil, in cool airy halls,
 Bade the gay bloom of vernal landscapes rise,
 Or Autumn's varied shades imbrown the walls :
 Now the black tempest strikes th' astonish'd eyes ;
 Now down the steep the flashing torrent flies ;
 The trembling sun now plays o'er ocean blue,
 And now rude mountains frown amid the skies ;
 Whate'er Lorraine light-touch'd with soft'ning hue,
 Or savage Rosa dash'd, or learned Poussin drew.

XXXIX.

Each sound too here to languishment inclin'd,
 Lull'd the weak bosom, and induced ease :
 Aërial music in the warbling wind,
 At distance rising oft, by small degrees,
 Nearer and nearer came, till o'er the trees
 It hung, and breath'd such soul-dissolving airs,
 As did, alas ! with soft perdition please :
 Entangled deep in its enchanting snares,
 The list'ning heart forgot all duties and all cares.

XL.

A certain music, never known before,
 Here lull'd the pensive, melancholy mind ;
 Full easily obtain'd. Behoves no more,
 But sidelong, to the gently waving wind,
 To lay the well-tun'd instrument reclin'd ;
 From which, with airy-flying fingers light,
 Beyond each mortal touch the most refin'd,
 The god of winds drew sounds of deep delight :
 Whence, with just cause, the harp of Æolus it hight.

XLI.

Ah me ! what hand can touch the string so fine ?
 Who up the lofty diapason roll
 Such sweet; such sad, such solemn airs divine,
 Then let them down again into the soul ?
 Now rising love they fann'd ; now pleasing dole
 They breath'd, in tender musings, through the heart ;
 And now a graver sacred strain they stole,
 As when seraphic hands a hymn impart :
 Wild warbling nature all, above the reach of art !

XLII.

Such the gay splendour, the luxurious state,
 Of caliphs old, who on the Tigris' shore,
 In mighty Bagdat, populous and great,
 Held their bright court, where was of ladies store ;
 And verse, love, music, still the garland wore :
 When Sleep was coy, the bard, in waiting there,
 Cheer'd the lone midnight with the Muse's lore ;
 Composing music bade his dreams be fair,
 And music lent new gladness to the morning air.

XLIII.

Near the pavilions where we slept, still ran
 Soft tinkling streams, and dashing waters fell,
 And sobbing breezes sigh'd, and oft began
 (So work'd the wizard) wintry storms to swell,
 As heaven and earth they would together mell :
 At doors and windows, threat'ning, seem'd to call
 The demons of the tempest, growling fell,
 Yet the least entrance found they none at all,
 When sweeter grew our sleep, secure in massy hall.

XLIV.

And hither Morpheus sent his kindest dreams,
 Raising a world of gayer tinct and grace,
 O'er which were shadowy cast Elysian gleams,
 That play'd, in waving lights, from place to place,
 And shed a roseate smile on Nature's face.
 Not Titian's pencil e'er could so array,
 So fleece with clouds the pure ethereal space ;
 Ne could it e'er such melting forms display,
 As loose on flowery beds all languishingly lay.

XLV.

No, fair illusions ! artful phantoms, no !
 My Muse will not attempt your fairy land :
 She has no colours that like you can glow :
 To catch your vivid scenes too gross her hand.
 But, sure it is, was ne'er a subtler band
 Than these same guileful angel-seeming sprites,
 Who thus in dreams voluptuous, soft, and bland,
 Pour'd all th' Arabian heaven upon our nights,
 And bless'd them oft besides with more refin'd delights.

XLVI.

They were, in sooth, a most enchanting train,
 E'en feigning virtue ; skilful to unite
 With evil good, and strew with pleasure pain.
 But for those fiends, whom blood and broils delight,
 Who hurl the wretch, as if to hell outright,
 Down down black gulfs, where sullen waters sleep,
 Or hold him clambering all the fearful night
 On beetling cliffs, or pent in ruins deep ;
 They, till due time should serve, were bid far hence to
 keep.

XLVII.

Ye guardian spirits, to whom man is dear,
 From these foul demons shield the midnight gloom :
 Angels of fancy and of love, be near,
 And o'er the blank of sleep diffuse a bloom :
 Evoke the sacred shades of Greece and Rome,
 And let them virtue with a look impart :
 But chief, awhile, O ! lend us from the tomb
 Those long-lost friends for whom in love we smart,
 And fill with pious awe and joy-mix'd woe the heart.

XLVIII.

Or are you sportive—— Bid the morn of youth
 Rise to new light, and beam afresh the days
 Of innocence, simplicity, and truth ;
 To cares estrang'd, and manhood's thorny ways.
 What transport, to retrace our boyish plays,
 Our easy bliss, when each thing joy supplied ;
 The woods, the mountains, and the warbling maze
 Of the wild brooks !—but, fondly wand'ring wide,
 My Muse, resume the task that yet doth thee abide.

XLIX.

One great amusement of our household was,
 In a huge crystal magic globe to spy,
 Still as you turn'd it, all things that do pass
 Upon this ant-hill earth, where constantly
 Of idly busy men the restless fry
 Run bustling to and fro with foolish haste,
 In search of pleasures vain that from them fly,
 Or which, obtain'd, the caitiffs dare not taste :—
 When nothing is enjoy'd, can there be greater waste ?

L.

"Of vanity the mirrour," this was call'd :
 Here you a muckworm of the town might see
 At his dull desk, amid his ledgers stall'd,
 Eat up with carking care and penury ;
 Most like to carcase parch'd on gallow-tree.
 "A penny saved is a penny got :"
 Firm to this scoundrel maxim keepeth he,
 Ne of its rigour will he bate a jot,
 Till it has quench'd his fire, and banished his pot.

LI.

Straight from the filth of this low grub, behold !
 Comes flutt'ring forth a gaudy spendthrift heir,
 All glossy gay, enamell'd all with gold,
 The silly tenant of the summer air,
 In folly lost, of nothing takes he care ;
 Pimps, lawyers, stewards, harlots, flatt'ers vile,
 And thieving tradesmen him among them share :
 His father's ghost from limbo lake, the while,
 Sees this, which more damnation doth upon him pile.

LII.

This globe pourtray'd the race of learned men,
 Still at their books, and turning o'er the page,
 Backwards and forwards : oft they snatch the pen,
 As if inspir'd, and in a Thespian rage ;
 Then write, and blot, as would your ruth engage :
 Why, authors, all this scrawl and scribbling sore ?
 To lose the present, gain the future age,
 Praised to be when you can hear no more,
 And much enrich'd with fame, when useless worldly store.

LIII.

Then would a splendid city rise to view,
With carts, and cars, and coaches roaring all :
Wide-pour'd abroad behold the giddy crew :
See how they dash along from wall to wall !
At every door, hark how they thund'ring call !
Good lord ! what can this giddy rout excite ?
Why, on each other with fell tooth to fall,
A neighbour's fortune, fame, or peace, to blight,
And make new tiresome parties for the coming night.

LIV.

The puzzling sons of party next appear'd,
In dark cabals and nightly juntos met ;
And now they whisper'd close, now shrugging rear'd
Th' important shoulder ; then, as if to get
New light, their twinkling eyes were inward set.
No sooner Lucifer * recals affairs,
Than forth they various rush in mighty fret ;
When lo ! push'd up to power, and crown'd their cares,
In comes another set, and kicketh them down stairs.

LV.

But what most show'd the vanity of life
Was to behold the nations all on fire,
In cruel broils engag'd, and deadly strife :
Most Christian kings, inflam'd by black desire,
With honourable ruffians in their hire,
Cause war to rage, and blood around to pour ;
Of this sad work when each begins to tire,
They sit them down just where they were before,
Till for new scenes of woe peace shall their force restore.

* The morning star.

LVI.

To number up the thousands dwelling here,
 A useless were, and eke an endless task ;
 From kings, and those who at the helm appear,
 To gypsies brown in summer-glades who bask.
 Yea many a man, perdie, I could unmask,
 Whose desk and table make a solemn show,
 With tape-tied trash, and suits of fools that ask
 For place or pension, laid in decent row ;
 But these I passen by, with nameless numbers moe.

LVII.

Of all the gentle tenants of the place,
 There was a man of special grave remark ;
 A certain tender gloom o'erspread his face,
 Pensive, not sad ; in thought involv'd, not dark ;
 As soot this man could sing as morning lark,
 And teach the noblest morals of the heart :
 But these his talents were yburied stark ;
 Of the fine stores he nothing would impart,
 Which or boon Nature gave, or nature-painting Art.

LVIII.

To noon-tide shades incontinent he ran,
 Where purls the brook with sleep-inviting sound ;
 Or when Dan Sol to slope his wheels began,
 Amid the broom he bask'd him on the ground,
 Where the wild thyme and camomile are found :
 There would he linger, till the latest ray
 Of light sat trembling on the welkin's bound ;
 Then homeward through the twilight shadows stray,
 Saunt'ring and slow. So had he passed many a day !

LIX.

Yet not in thoughtless slumber were they pass'd ;
 For oft the heavenly fire, that lay conceal'd
 Beneath the sleeping embers, mounted fast,
 And all its native light anew reveal'd :
 Oft as he travers'd the cerulean field,
 And mark'd the clouds that drove before the wind,
 Ten thousand glorious systems would he build,
 Ten thousand great ideas fill'd his mind ;
 But with the clouds they fled, and left no trace behind.

LX.

With him was sometimes join'd, in silent walk,
 (Profoundly silent, for they never spoke)
 One * shy'er still, who quite detested talk :
 Oft, stung by spleen, at once away he broke,
 To groves of pine, and broad o'ershadowing oak ;
 There, inly thrill'd, he wander'd all alone,
 And on himself his pensive fury wroke,
 Ne ever utter'd word, save when first shone
 The glitt'ring star of eve—"Thank heaven! the day is
 done."

LXI.

Here lurk'd a wretch, who had not crept abroad
 For forty years, ne face of mortal seen ;
 In chamber brooding like a loathly toad :
 And sure his linen was not very clean.
 Through secret loop-holes, that had practis'd been
 Near to his bed, his dinner vile he took ;
 Unkempt, and rough, of squalid face and mien,
 Our Castle's shame ! whence, from his filthy nook,
 We drove the villain out for fitter lair to look.

* Conjecture has applied this to Dr. Armstrong the poet.

LXII.

One day there chaunc'd into these halls to rove
 A joyous youth, who took you at first sight ;
 Him the wild wave of pleasure hither drove,
 Before the sprightly tempest tossing light :
 Certes, he was a most engaging wight,
 Of social glee, and wit humane though keen,
 Turning the night to day and day to night :
 For him the merry bells had rung, I ween,
 If, in this nook of quiet, bells had ever been.

LXIII.

But not e'en pleasure to excess is good :
 What most elates, then sinks the soul as low :
 When springtide joy pours in with copious flood,
 The higher still th' exulting billows flow,
 The further back again they flagging go,
 And leave us grov'ling on the dreary shore :
 Taught by this son of joy, we found it so,
 Who, whilst he stay'd kept in a gay uproar
 Our madden'd castle all, th' abode of sleep no more.

LXIV.

As when in prime of June a burnish'd fly,
 Sprung from the meads, o'er which he sweeps along,
 Cheer'd by the breathing bloom and vital sky,
 Tunes up amid these airy halls his song,
 Soothing at first the gay reposing throng :
 And oft he sips their bowl ; or, nearly drown'd,
 He, thence recovering, drives their beds among,
 And scares their tender sleep, with trump profound ;
 Then out again he flies, to wing his mazy round.

LXV.

Another guest * there was, of sense refin'd,
 Who felt each worth, for every worth he had ;
 Serene yet warm, humane yet firm his mind,
 As little touch'd as any man's with bad :
 Him through their inmost walks the Muses lad,
 To him the sacred love of nature lent,
 And sometimes would he make our valley glad ;
 When as we found he would not here be pent,
 To him the better sort this friendly message sent :

LXVI.

“ Come, dwell with us ! true son of Virtue, come !
 But if, alas ! we cannot thee persuade
 To lie content beneath our peaceful dome,
 Ne ever more to quit our quiet glade ;
 Yet when at last thy toils but ill apaid
 Shall dead thy fire, and damp its heavenly spark,
 Thou wilt be glad to seek the rural shade,
 There to indulge the Muse, and nature mark :
 We then a lodge for thee will rear in Hagley Park.”

LXVII.

Here whilom ligg'd th' Esopus † of the age ;
 But call'd by fame, in soul ypricked deep,
 A noble pride restored him to the stage,
 And rous'd him like a giant from his sleep.
 E'en from his slumbers we advantage reap :
 With double force the enliven'd scene he wakes,
 Yet quits not nature's bounds. He knows to keep
 Each due decorum : now the heart he shakes,
 And now with well-urged sense the enlighten'd judg-
 ment takes.

* George, Lord Lyttleton.

† Mr. Quin.

LXVIII.

A bard here dwelt, more fat than bard beseems ;
 Who, void of envy, guile, and lust of gain,
 On virtue still, and nature's pleasing themes,
 Pour'd forth his unpremeditated strain :
 The world forsaking with a calm disdain,
 Here laugh'd he careless in his easy seat ;
 Here quaff'd, encircled with the joyous train,
 Oft moralizing sage : his ditty sweet
 He loathed much to write, ne cared to repeat.

LXIX.

Full oft by holy feet our ground was trod,
 Of clerks good plenty here you mote espy.
 A little, round, fat, oily man* of God,
 Was one I chiefly mark'd among the fry :
 He had a roguish twinkle in his eye,
 And shone all glitt'ring with ungodly dew,
 If a tight damsel chaunc'd to trippen by ;
 Which when observ'd, he shrunk into his mew,
 And straight would recollect his piety anew.

LXX.

Nor be forgot a tribe, who minded nought
 (Old inmates of the place) but state-affairs :
 They look'd, perdie, as if they deeply thought,
 And on their brow sat every nation's cares ;
 The world by them is parcell'd out in shares,
 When in the Hall of Smoke they congress hold,
 And the sage berry sun-burnt Mocha bears
 Has clear'd their inward eye : then, smoke-enroll'd,
 Their oracles break forth, mysterious as of old.

* The Rev. Mr. Murdoch, Thomson's friend and biographer.

LXXI.

Here languid Beauty kept her pale-fac'd court :
 Bevies of dainty dames, of high degree,
 From every quarter hither made resort ;
 Where, from gross mortal care and bus'ness free,
 They lay, pour'd out in ease and luxury.
 Or should they a vain show of work assume,
 Alas! and well-a-day! what can it be ?
 To knot, to twist, to range the vernal bloom ;
 But far is cast the distaff, spinning-wheel, and loom.

LXXII.

Their only labour was to kill the time
 (And labour dire it is, and weary woe) ;
 They sit, they loll, turn o'er some idle rhyme ;
 Then, rising sudden, to the glass they go,
 Or saunter forth, with tott'ring step and slow :
 This soon too rude an exercise they find ;
 Straight on the couch their limbs again they throw,
 Where hours on hours they sighing lie reclin'd,
 And court the vapoury god, soft breathing in the wind.

LXXIII.

One nymph there was, methought, in bloom of May,
 On whom the idle Fiend glanc'd many a look,
 In hopes to lead her down the slipp'ry way
 To taste of Pleasure's deep deceitful brook :
 No virtues yet her gentle mind forsook :
 No idle whims, no vapours fill'd her brain ;
 But Prudence for her youthful guide she took,
 And Goodness, which no earthly vice could stain,
 Dwelt in her mind ; she was ne proud, I ween, or vain.

LXXIV.

Now must I mark the villany we found,
 But ah ! too late, as shall eftsoons be shown.
 A place here was, deep, dreary, under ground ;
 Where still our inmates, when unpleasing grown,
 Diseas'd, and loathsome, privily were thrown :
 Far from the light of heaven, they languish'd there,
 Unpitied uttering many a bitter groan ;
 For of these wretches taken was no care :
 Fierce fiends, and hags of hell, their only nurses were.

LXXV.

Alas ! the change ! from scenes of joy and rest,
 To this dark den, where sickness toss'd always.
 Here Lethargy, with deadly sleep oppress'd,
 Stretch'd on his back, a mighty lubbard, lay,
 Heaving his sides, and snored night and day ;
 To stir him from his traunce it was not eath,
 And his half-open'd eyne he shut straightway ;
 He led, I wot, the softest way to death,
 And taught withouten pain and strife to yield the breath.

LXXVI.

Of limbs enormous, but withal unsound,
 Soft-swoln and pale, here lay the Hydropsy :
 Unwieldy man, with belly monstrous round,
 For ever fed with watery supply ;
 For still he drank, and yet he still was dry.
 And moping here did Hypochondria sit,
 Mother of Spleen, in robes of various dye,
 Who vexed was full oft with ugly fit ;
 And some her frantic deem'd, and some her deem'd a wit.

LXXVII.

A lady proud she was, of ancient blood,
Yet oft her fear her pride made crouchen low :
She felt, or fancied in her fluttering mood,
All the diseases which the spittles know,
And sought all physic which the shops bestow,
And still new leeches and new drugs would try,
Her humour ever wavering to and fro :
For sometimes she would laugh, and sometimes cry,
Then sudden waxed wroth, and all she knew not why.

LXXVIII.

Fast by her side a listless maiden pin'd,
With aching head, and squeamish heart-burnings ;
Pale, bloated, cold, she seem'd to hate mankind,
Yet lov'd in secret all forbidden things.
And here the Tertian shakes his chilling wings ;
The sleepless Gout here counts the crowing cocks,
A wolf now gnaws him, now a serpent stings ;
Whilst Apoplexy cramm'd Intemp'rance knocks
Down to the ground at once, as butcher felleth ox*.

* These four concluding stanzas were claimed by Dr. Armstrong, and inserted in his "Miscellanies."

THE
CASTLE OF INDOLENCE.

CANTO II.

The Knight of Arts and Industry,
And his achievements fair,
That, by this Castle's overthrow,
Secur'd, and crowned were.

I.

ESCAP'D the castle of the sire of sin,
Ah! where shall I so sweet a dwelling find?
For all around, without, and all within,
Nothing save what delightful was and kind,
Of goodness savouring and a tender mind,
E'er rose to view. But now another strain,
Of doleful note, alas! remains behind:
I now must sing of pleasure turn'd to pain,
And of the false enchanter INDOLENCE complain.

II.

Is there no patron to protect the Muse,
And fence for her Parnassus' barren soil ?
To every labour its reward accrues,
And they are sure of bread who swink and moil ;
But a fell tribe the Aonian hive despoil,
As ruthless wasps oft rob the painful bee :
Thus while the laws not guard that noblest toil,
Ne for the Muses other meed decree,
They praised are alone, and starve right merrily.

III.

I care not, Fortune, what you me deny :
You cannot rob me of free Nature's grace :
You cannot shut the windows of the sky,
Through which Aurora shows her bright'ning face ;
You cannot bar my constant feet to trace
The woods and lawns, by living stream, at eve :
Let health my nerves and finer fibres brace,
And I their toys to the great children leave :
Of fancy, reason, virtue, nought can me bereave.

IV.

Come then, my Muse, and raise a bolder song ;
Come, lig no more upon the bed of sloth,
Dragging the lazy languid line along,
Fond to begin, but still to finish loth,
Thy half-writ scrolls all eaten by the moth :
Arise, and sing that gen'rous imp of fame,
Who, with the sons of Softness nobly wroth,
To sweep away this human lumber came,
Or in a chosen few to rouse the slumb'ring flame.

V.

In Fairy Land there lived a knight of old,
 Of feature stern, Selvaggio well yclep'd,
 A rough unpolish'd man, robust and bold,
 But wondrous poor: he neither sow'd nor reap'd,
 No stores in summer for cold winter heap'd ;
 In hunting all his days away he wore ;
 Now scorch'd by June, now in November steep'd,
 Now pinch'd by biting January sore,
 He still in woods pursued the libbard and the boar.

VI.

As he one morning, long before the dawn,
 Prick'd through the forest to dislodge his prey,
 Deep in the winding bosom of a lawn,
 With wood wild fring'd, he marked a taper's ray,
 That from the beating rain, and wintry fray,
 Did to a lonely cot his steps decoy ;
 There, up to earn the needments of the day,
 He found dame Poverty, nor fair nor coy :
 Her he compress'd, and fill'd her with a lusty boy.

VII.

Amid the greenwood shade this boy was bred,
 And grew at last a knight of muchel fame,
 Of active mind and vigorous lustyhed,
 The Knight of Arts and Industry by name :
 Earth was his bed, the boughs his roof did frame ;
 He knew no bev'rage but the flowing stream ;
 His tasteful well-earn'd food the sylvan game,
 Or the brown fruit with which the woodlands teem :
 The same to him glad summer, or the winter breme.

VIII.

So pass'd his youthly morning, void of care,
 Wild as the colts that through the commons run :
 For him no tender parents troubled were ;
 He of the forest seem'd to be the son,
 And, certes, had been utterly undone,
 But that Minerva pity of him took,
 With all the gods that love the rural wonne,
 That teach to tame the soil and rule the crook ;
 Ne did the sacred Nine disdain a gentle look.

IX.

Of fertile genius, him they nurtur'd well,
 In every science, and in every art,
 By which mankind the thoughtless brutes excel,
 That can or use, or joy, or grace impart,
 Disclosing all the powers of head and heart :
 Ne were the goodly exercises spar'd,
 That brace the nerves, or make the limbs alert,
 And mix elastic force with firmness hard :
 Was never knight on ground mote be with him compar'd.

X.

Sometimes, with early dawn, he mounted gay
 The hunter steed, exulting o'er the dale,
 And drew the roseate breath of orient day ;
 Sometimes, retiring to the secret vale,
 Yclad in steel, and bright with burnish'd mail,
 He strain'd the bow, or toss'd the sounding spear,
 Or, darting on the goal, outstripp'd the gale,
 Or wheel'd the chariot in its mid career,
 Or strenuous wrestled hard with many a tough compeer.

XI.

At other times he pried through Nature's store,
 Whate'er she in th' ethereal round contains,
 Whate'er she hides beneath her verdant floor,
 The vegetable and the mineral reigns ;
 Or else he scann'd the globe, those small domains,
 Where restless mortals such a turmoil keep,
 Its seas, its floods, its mountains, and its plains :
 But more he search'd the mind, and rous'd from sleep
 Those moral seeds whence we heroic actions reap.

XII.

Nor would he scorn to stoop from high pursuits
 Of heavenly Truth, and practise what she taught :
 Vain is the tree of knowledge without fruits !
 Sometimes in hand the spade or plough he caught,
 Forth calling all with which boon earth is fraught ;
 Sometimes he plied the strong mechanic tool,
 Or rear'd the fabric from the finest draught ;
 And oft he put himself to Neptune's school,
 Fighting with winds and waves on the vex'd ocean pool.

XIII.

To solace then these rougher toils, he tried
 To touch the kindling canvas into life ;
 With nature his creating pencil vied,
 With nature joyous at the mimic strife :
 Or, to such shapes as grac'd Pygmalion's wife
 He hew'd the marble ; or, with varied fire,
 He rous'd the trumpet, and the martial fife,
 Or bade the lute sweet tenderness inspire,
 Or verses fram'd that well might wake Apollo's lyre.

XIV.

Accomplish'd thus, he from the woods issu'd,
 Full of great aims, and bent on bold emprise ;
 The work, which long he in his breast had brew'd,
 Now to perform he ardent did devise ;
 To wit, a barbarous world to civilise.
 Earth was till then a boundless forest wild ;
 Nought to be seen but savage wood and skies ;
 No cities nourish'd arts, no culture smil'd,
 No government, no laws, no gentle manners mild.

XV.

A rugged wight, the worst of brutes, was man :
 On his own wretched kind he, ruthless, prey'd :
 The strongest still the weakest overran ;
 In every country mighty robbers sway'd,
 And guile and ruffian force were all their trade.
 Life was a scene of rapine, want, and woe ;
 Which this brave knight, in noble anger, made
 To swear he would the rascal rout o'erthrow,
 For, by the powers divine, it should no more be so !

XVI.

It would exceed the purport of my song,
 To say how this best sun, from orient climes,
 Came beaming life and beauty all along,
 Before him chasing indolence and crimes.
 Still as he pass'd, the nations he sublimes,
 And calls forth arts and virtues with his ray :
 Then Egypt, Greece, and Rome their golden times,
 Successive had ; but now in ruins grey,
 They lie, to slavish sloth and tyranny a prey.

XVII.

To crown his toils, Sir Industry then spread
 The swelling sail, and made for Britain's coast.
 A sylvan life till then the natives led,
 In the brown shades and green-wood forest lost,
 All careless rambling where it lik'd them most :
 Their wealth the wild deer bouncing through the glade ;
 They lodg'd at large, and liv'd at Nature's cost ;
 Save spear and bow, withouten other aid ;
 Yet not the Roman steel their naked breast dismay'd.

XVIII.

He lik'd the soil, he lik'd the clement skies,
 He lik'd the verdant hills and flowery plains :
 " Be this my great, my chosen isle," he cries,
 " This, whilst my labours Liberty sustains,
 This queen of ocean all assault disdains."
 Nor lik'd he less the genius of the land,
 To freedom apt and persevering pains,
 Mild to obey, and gen'rous to command,
 Temper'd by forming Heaven with kindest, firmest hand.

XIX.

Here, by degrees, his master-work arose,
 Whatever arts and industry can frame :
 Whatever finished Agriculture knows,
 Fair queen of arts ! from heaven itself who came,
 When Eden flourish'd in unspotted fame ;
 And still with her sweet Innocence we find,
 And tender Peace, and joys without a name,
 That, while they ravish, tranquillise the mind :
 Nature and art at once, delight and use combin'd.

XX.

Then towns he quicken'd by mechanic arts,
 And bade the fervent city glow with toil ;
 Bade social commerce raise renowned marts,
 Join land to land, and marry soil to soil ;
 Unite the poles, and without bloody spoil
 Bring home of either Ind the gorgeous stores ;
 Or, should despotic rage the world embroil,
 Bade tyrants tremble on remotest shores,
 While o'er th' encircling deep Britannia's thunder roars.

XXI.

The drooping Muses then he westward call'd
 From the fam'd city * by Propontic Sea,
 What time the Turk th' enfeebled Grecian thrall'd ;
 Thence from their cloister'd walks he set them free,
 And brought them to another Castalie,
 Where Isis many a famous nursling breeds ;
 Or where old Cam soft-paces o'er the lea
 In pensive mood, and tunes his Doric reeds,
 The whilst his flocks at large the lonely shepherd feeds.

XXII.

Yet the fine arts were what he finish'd least.
 For why ? They are the quintessence of all,
 The growth of labouring time, and slow increas'd ;
 Unless, as seldom chances, it should fall
 That mighty patrons the coy sisters call
 Up to the sunshine of uncumber'd ease,
 Where no rude care the mounting thought may thrall,
 And where they nothing have to do but please :
 Ah ! gracious God ! thou know'st they ask no other fees.

* Constantinople.

XXIII.

But now, alas! we live too late in time :
 Our patrons now e'en grudge that little claim,
 Except to such as sleek the soothing rhyme ;
 And yet, forsooth, they wear Mæcenas' name,
 Poor sons of puft-up vanity, not fame.
 Unbroken spirits, cheer! still, still remains
 Th' eternal patron, Liberty ; whose flame,
 While she protects, inspires the noblest strains :
 The best and sweetest far, are toil-created gains.

XXIV.

When as the knight had framed, in Britain-land,
 A matchless form of glorious government,
 In which the sovereign laws alone command,
 Laws 'stablish'd by the public free consent,
 Whose majesty is to the sceptre lent ;
 When this great plan, with each dependent art,
 Was settled firm, and to his heart's content,
 Then sought he from the toilsome scene to part,
 And let life's vacant eve breathe quiet through the heart.

XXV.

For this he chose a farm in Deva's vale,
 Where his long alleys peep'd upon the main :
 In this calm seat he drew the healthful gale ;
 Here mix'd the chief, the patriot, and the swain.
 The happy monarch of his sylvan train,
 Here, sided by the guardians of the fold,
 He walk'd his rounds, and cheer'd his blest domain.
 His days, the days of unstain'd nature, roll'd
 Replete with peace and joy, like patriarchs of old.

XXVI.

Witness, ye lowing herds, who gave him milk,—
 Witness, ye flocks, whose woolly vestments far
 Exceed soft India's cotton, or her silk,—
 Witness, with Autumn charg'd the nodding car,
 That homeward came beneath sweet evening's star,
 Or of September-moons the radiance mild.
 O hide thy head, abominable War!
 Of crimes and ruffian idleness the child!
 From Heaven this life ysprung, from hell thy glories vil'd!

XXVII.

Nor from this deep retirement banish'd was
 Th' amusing care of rural industry.
 Still, as with grateful change the seasons pass,
 New scenes arise, new landscapes strike the eye,
 And all th' enliven'd country beautify :
 Gay plains extend where marshes slept before ;
 O'er recent meads th' exulting streamlets fly ;
 Dark frowning heaths grow bright with Ceres' store,
 And woods imbrown the steep, or wave along the shore.

XXVIII.

As nearer to his farm you made approach,
 He polish'd Nature with a finer hand :
 Yet on her beauties durst not Art encroach ;
 'Tis Art's alone these beauties to expand.
 In graceful dance immingled, o'er the land,
 Pan, Pales, Flora, and Pomona play'd :
 Here, too, brisk gales the rude wild common fann'd,
 A happy place, where free, and unafraid,
 Amid the flow'ring brakes each coyer creature stray'd.

XXIX.

But in prime vigour what can last for aye ?
 That soul-enfeebling wizard, Indolence,
 I whilom sung, wrought in his works decay :
 Spread far and wide was his curs'd influence ;
 Of public virtue much he dull'd the sense,
 E'en much of private ; eat our spirit out,
 And fed our rank luxurious vices : whence
 The land was overlaid with many a lout
 Not, as old Fame reports, wise, gen'rous, bold, and stout.

XXX.

A rage of pleasure madden'd every breast ;
 Down to the lowest lees the ferment ran ;
 To his licentious wish each must be bless'd,
 With joy be fever'd, snatch it as he can.
 Thus Vice the standard rear'd ; her arrier-ban
 Corruption call'd, and loud she gave the word,
 " Mind, mind yourselves ! why should the vulgar man,
 The lacquey be more virtuous than his lord ?
 Enjoy this span of life ! 'tis all the gods afford."

XXXI.

The tidings reach'd to where, in quiet hall,
 The good old knight enjoy'd well-earn'd repose :
 " Come, come, Sir Knight ! thy children on thee call ;
 Come, save us yet, ere ruin round us close !
 The demon Indolence thy toils o'erthrows."
 On this the noble colour stain'd his cheeks,
 Indignant, glowing through the whit'ning snows
 Of venerable eld ; his eye full speaks
 His ardent soul, and from his couch at once he breaks.

XXXII.

“ I will,” he cried, “ so help me, God ! destroy
 That villain Archimage.”—His page then straight
 He to him call'd, a fiery-footed boy,
 Benempt Despatch :—“ My steed be at the gate ;
 My bard attend ; quick, bring the net of fate.”
 This net was twisted by the sisters three,
 Which, when once cast o'er harden'd wretch, too late
 Repentance comes, replevy cannot be
 From the strong iron grasp of vengeful Destiny.

XXXIII.

He came, the bard, a little Druid wight,
 Of wither'd aspect ; but his eye was keen,
 With sweetness mix'd. In russet brown bedight,
 As is his sister* of the copses green,
 He crept along, unpromising of mien.
 Gross he who judges so. His soul was fair,
 Bright as the children of yon azure sheen !
 True comeliness, which nothing can impair,
 Dwells in the mind : all else is vanity and glare.

XXXIV.

“ Come,” quoth the knight, “ a voice has reach'd
 mine ear :
 The demon Indolence threats overthrow
 To all that to mankind is good and dear :
 Come, Philomelus, let us instant go,
 O'erturn his bowers, and lay his castle low.
 Those men, those wretched men, who will be slaves,
 Must drink a bitter wrathful cup of woe :
 But some there be, thy song, as from their graves,
 Shall raise. Thrice happy he ! who without rigour saves !”

* The Nightingale.

XXXV.

Issuing forth, the knight bestrode his steed,
 Of ardent bay, and on whose front a star
 Shone blazing bright : sprung from the gen'rous breed,
 That whirl of active day the rapid car,
 He pranc'd along, disdaining gate or bar.
 Meantime, the bard on milk-white palfrey rode,
 An honest sober beast, that did not mar
 His meditations, but full softly trode ;
 And much they moraliz'd as thus yfere they yode.

XXXVI.

They talk'd of virtue and of human bliss.
 What else so fit for man to settle well ?
 And still their long researches met in this,
 This truth of truths, which nothing can refel :—
 “ From virtue's fount the purest joys outwell,
 Sweet rills of thought that cheer the conscious soul ;
 While vice pours forth the troubled streams of hell,
 The which, howe'er disguis'd, at last with dole
 Will, through the tortur'd breast, their fiery torrent roll.”

XXXVII.

At length it dawn'd, that fatal valley gay,
 O'er which high wood-crown'd hills their summits rear :
 On the cool height awhile our palmers stay,
 And spite e'en of themselves their senses cheer ;
 Then to the wizard's wonne their steps they steer.
 Like a green isle, it broad beneath them spread,
 With gardens round, and wand'ring currents clear,
 And tufted groves to shade the meadow bed,
 Sweet airs and song ; and without hurry all seem'd glad.

XXXVIII.

“ As God shall judge me, knight, we must forgive
 (The half-enraptur'd Philomelus cried)
 The frail good man deluded here to live,
 And in these groves his musing fancy hide.
 Ah ! nought is pure. It cannot be denied,
 That virtue still some tincture has of vice,
 And vice of virtue. What should then betide,
 But that our charity be not too nice ?
 Come, let us those we can to real bliss entice.”

XXXIX.

“ Ay, sicker,” quoth the knight, “ all flesh is frail,
 To pleasant sin and joyous dalliance bent ;
 But let not brutish Vice of this avail,
 And think to 'scape deserved punishment.
 Justice were cruel weakly to relent ;
 From Mercy's self she got her sacred glaive :
 Grace be to those who can, and will, repent ;
 But penance long, and dreary, to the slave,
 Who must in floods of fire his gross foul spirit lave.”

XL.

Thus, holding high discourse, they came to where
 The cursed carle was at his wonted trade ;
 Still tempting heedless men into his snare,
 In witching wise, as I before have said.
 But when he saw, in goodly gear array'd,
 The grave majestic knight approaching nigh,
 And by his side the bard so sage and staid,
 His count'nance fell ; yet oft his anxious eye
 Mark'd them, like wily fox who roosted cock doth spy.

XLI.

Nathless, with feign'd respect, he bade give back
 The rabble rout, and welcom'd them full kind ;
 Struck with the noble twain, they were not slack
 His orders to obey, and fall behind.
 Then he resum'd his song ; and unconfin'd
 Pour'd all his music, ran through all his strings :
 With magic dust their eyne he tries to blind,
 And virtue's tender airs o'er weakness flings.
 What pity base his song who so divinely sings !

XLII.

Elate in thought, he counted them his own,
 They listen'd so intent with fix'd delight :
 But they instead, as if transmew'd to stone,
 Marvell'd he could with such sweet art unite
 The lights and shades of manners, wrong and right.
 Meantime, the silly crowd the charm devour,
 Wide pressing to the gate. Swift on the knight
 He darted fierce, to drag him to his bower,
 Who backening shunn'd his touch, for well he knew its
 power.

XLIII.

As in throng'd amphitheatre of old
 The wary Retiarius trapp'd his foe,
 E'en so the knight, returning on him bold,
 At once involv'd him in the Net of Woe
 Whereof I mention made not long ago.
 Enrag'd at first, he scorn'd so weak a jail,
 And leap'd, and flew, and flounced to and fro :
 But, when he found that nothing could avail,
 He sat him felly down, and gnawed his bitter nail.

XLIV.

Alarm'd, th' inferior demons of the place
 Rais'd rueful shrieks and hideous yells around ;
 Black stormy clouds deform'd the welkin's face,
 And from beneath was heard a wailing sound,
 As of infernal sprites in cavern bound ;
 A solemn sadness every creature strook,
 And lightnings flash'd, and horror rock'd the ground :
 Huge crowds on crowds outpour'd, with blemish'd look,
 As if on Time's last verge this frame of things had shook.

XLV.

Soon as the short-liv'd tempest was yspent,
 Steam'd from the jaws of vex'd Avernus' hole,
 And hush'd the hubbub of the rabblement,
 Sir Industry the first calm moment stole :
 " There must," he cried, " amid so vast a shoal,
 Be some who are not tainted at the heart,
 Not poison'd quite by this same villain's bowl :
 Come then, my bard, thy heavenly fire impart ;
 Touch soul with soul, till forth the latent spirit start."

XLVI.

The bard obey'd ; and taking from his side,
 Where it in seemly sort depending hung,
 His British harp, its speaking strings he tried,
 The which with skilful touch he deftly strung,
 Till tinkling in clear symphony they rung.
 Then, as he felt the Muses come along,
 Light o'er the chords his raptur'd hand he flung,
 And play'd a prelude to his rising song :
 The whilst, like midnight mute, ten thousands round him
 throng.

XLVII.

Thus, ardent, burst his strain :—“ Ye hapless race,
 Dire labouring here to smother Reason’s ray,
 That lights our Maker’s image in our face,
 And gives us wide o’er earth unquestion’d sway,
 What is th’ adored Supreme Perfection, say ?—
 What, but eternal never-resting soul,
 Almighty power, and all-directing day ;
 By whom each atom stirs, the planets roll ;
 Who fills, surrounds, informs, and agitates the whole ?

XLVIII.

“ Come, to the beaming God your hearts unfold !
 Draw from its fountain life ! ’Tis thence, alone,
 We can excel. Up from unfeeling mould,
 To seraphs burning round th’ Almighty’s throne,
 Life rising still on life, in higher tone,
 Perfection forms, and with perfection bliss.
 In universal nature this clear shown,
 Not needeth proof : to prove it were, I wis,
 To prove the beauteous world excels the brute abyss.

XLIX.

“ Is not the field, with lively culture green,
 A sight more joyous than the dead morass ?
 Do not the skies, with active ether clean,
 And fann’d by sprightly zephyrs, far surpass
 The foul November fogs, and slumbrous mass
 With which sad Nature veils her drooping face ?
 Does not the mountain stream, as clear as glass,
 Gay-dancing on, the putrid pool disgrace ?
 The same in all holds true, but chief in human race.

L.

" It was not by vile loitering in ease,
 That Greece obtain'd the brighter palm of art ;
 That soft yet ardent Athens learn'd to please,
 To keen the wit, and to sublime the heart,
 In all supreme ! complete in every part !
 It was not thence majestic Rome arose,
 And o'er the nations shook her conquering dart :
 For sluggard's brow the laurel never grows ;
 Renown is not the child of indolent Repose.

LI.

" Had unambitious mortals minded nought,
 But in loose joy their time to wear away ;
 Had they alone the lap of Dalliance sought,
 Pleas'd on her pillow their dull heads to lay,
 Rude nature's state had been our state to-day ;
 No cities e'er their towery fronts had rais'd,
 No arts had made us opulent and gay ;
 With brother-brutes the human race had graz'd ;
 None e'er had soar'd to fame, none honour'd been, none
 prais'd.

LII.

" Great Homer's song had never fir'd the breast
 To thirst of glory and heroic deeds ;
 Sweet Maro's muse, sunk in inglorious rest,
 Had silent slept amid the Mincian reeds ;
 The wits of modern time had told their beads,
 And monkish legends been their only strains ;
 Our Milton's Eden had lain wrapt in weeds,
 Our Shakspeare stroll'd and laugh'd with Warwick
 swains,
 Ne had my master Spenser charm'd his Mulla's plains.

LIII.

“Dumb too had been the sage historic muse,
 And perish'd all the sons of ancient Fame;
 Those starry lights of virtue, that diffuse
 Through the dark depth of time their vivid flame,
 Had all been lost with such as have no name.
 Who then had scorn'd his ease for others' good?
 Who then had toil'd rapacious men to tame?
 Who in the public breach devoted stood,
 And for his country's cause been prodigal of blood?

LIV.

“But, should to fame your hearts unfeeling be,
 If right I read, you pleasure all require:
 Then hear how best may be obtain'd this fee,
 How best enjoy'd this nature's wide desire.
 Toil and be glad! let Industry inspire
 Into your quicken'd limbs her buoyant breath!
 Who does not act is dead; absorpt entire
 In miry sloth, no pride, no joy he hath:
 O leaden-hearted men, to be in love with death!

LV.

“Ah! what avail the largest gifts of Heaven,
 When drooping health and spirits go amiss?
 How tasteless then whatever can be given!
 Health is the vital principle of bliss,
 And exercise of health. In proof of this,
 Behold the wretch, who slugs his life away,
 Soon swallow'd in disease's sad abyss;
 While he whom toil has brac'd, or manly play,
 Has light as air each limb, each thought as clear as day.

LVI.

" O who can speak the vig'rous joys of health !
 Unclogg'd the body, unobscur'd the mind :
 The morning rises gay, with pleasing stealth ;
 The temp'rate evening falls serene and kind.
 In health the wiser brutes true gladness find :
 See ! how the younglings frisk along the meads,
 As May comes on, and wakes the balmy wind ;
 Rampant with life, their joy all joy exceeds :
 Yet what but high-strung health this dancing pleasaunce
 breeds ?

LVII.

" But here, instead, is foster'd every ill
 Which or distemper'd minds or bodies know.
 Come then, my kindred spirits, do not spill
 Your talents here : this place is but a show,
 Whose charms delude you to the den of woe.
 Come, follow me, I will direct you right,
 Where pleasure's roses, void of serpents, grow,
 Sincere as sweet ; come, follow this good Knight,
 And you will bless the day that brought him to your sight.

LVIII.

" Some he will lead to courts, and some to camps
 To senates some, and public sage debates,
 Where, by the solemn gleam of midnight lamps,
 The world is pois'd, and manag'd mighty states ;
 To high discovery some, that new creates
 The face of earth ; some to the thriving mart ;
 Some to the rural reign, and softer fates ;
 To the sweet Muses some, who raise the heart :
 All glory shall be yours, all nature, and all art !

LIX.

" There are, I see, who listen to my lay,
 Who wretched sigh for virtue, but despair :
 ' All may be done,' methinks I hear them say,
 ' E'en death despis'd by gen'rous actions fair ;
 All, but for those who to these bowers repair,
 Their every power dissolv'd in luxury,
 To quit of torpid sluggishness the lair,
 And from the powerful arms of Sloth get free :
 'Tis rising from the dead—Alas ! it cannot be !'

LX.

" Would you then learn to dissipate the band
 Of these huge threat'ning difficulties dire,
 That in the weak man's way like lions stand,
 His soul appal, and damp his rising fire ?
 Resolve, resolve, and to be men aspire.
 Exert that noblest privilege, alone
 Here to mankind indulg'd ; controul desire :
 Let godlike Reason, from her sovereign throne,
 Speak the commanding word, ' I will !' and it is done.

LXI.

" Heavens ! can you then thus waste, in shameful wise,
 Your few important days of trial here ?
 Heirs of eternity ! yborn to rise
 Through endless states of being, still more near
 To bliss approaching, and perfection clear ;
 Can you renounce a fortune so sublime,
 Such glorious hopes, your backward steps to steer,
 And roll, with vilest brutes, through mud and slime ?
 No ! No !—Your heaven-touch'd hearts disdain the sordid
 crime !"

LXII.

“Enough! enough!” they cried—straight, from the crowd,
 The better sort on wings of transport fly :
 As when amid the lifeless summits proud
 Of Alpine cliffs, where to the gelid sky
 Snows pil’d on snows in wint’ry torpor lie,
 The rays divine of vernal Phœbus play ;
 Th’ awaken’d heaps, in streamlets from on high,
 Rous’d into action, lively leap away,
 Glad warbling through the vales, in their new being gay.

LXIII.

Not less the life, the vivid joy serene,
 That lighted up these new-created men.
 Than that which wings th’ exulting spirit clean,
 When, just deliver’d from this fleshly den,
 It soaring seeks its native skies agen :
 How light its essence ! how unclogg’d its powers,
 Beyond the blazon of my mortal pen !
 E’en so we glad forsook these sinful bowers,
 E’en such enraptur’d life, such energy was ours.

LXIV.

But far the greater part, with rage inflam’d,
 Dire-mutter’d curses, and blasphem’d high Jove :
 “Ye sons of hate !” they bitterly exclaim’d,
 “What brought you to this seat of peace and love ?
 While with kind Nature, here amid the grove,
 We pass’d the harmless sabbath of our time,
 What to disturb it could, fell men, emove
 Your barbarous hearts ? Is happiness a crime ?
 Then do the fiends of hell rule in yon Heaven sublime.”

LXV.

"Impious wretches," quoth the Knight in wrath,
 "Your happiness behold!"—Then straight a wand
 He wav'd, an anti-magic power that hath,
 Truth from illusive falsehood to command.
 Sudden the landscape sinks on every hand ;
 The pure quick streams are marshy puddles found ;
 On baleful heaths the groves all blacken'd stand,
 And o'er the weedy, foul, abhorred ground,
 Snakes, adders, toads, each loathsome creature crawls
 around.

LXVI.

And here and there, on trees by lightning scath'd,
 Unhappy wights who loathed life yhung ;
 Or, in fresh gore and recent murder bath'd,
 They welt'ring lay ; or else, infuriate flung
 Into the gloomy flood, while ravens sung
 The funeral dirge, they down the torrent roll'd :
 These, by distemper'd blood to madness stung,
 Had doom'd themselves ; whence oft, when night
 controll'd
 The world, returning hither their sad spirits howl'd.

LXVII.

Meantime a moving scene was open laid ;
 That lazar-house, I whilom in my lay
 Depainted have, its horrors deep-display'd,
 And gave unnumber'd wretches to the day,
 Who tossing there in squalid mis'ry lay.
 Soon as of sacred light th' unwonted smile
 Pour'd on these living catacombs its ray,
 Through the drear caverns stretching many a mile,
 The sick uprais'd their heads, and dropp'd their woes
 awhile.

LXVIII.

"O heaven!" they cried, "and do we once more see
 Yon blessed sun, and this green earth so fair?
 Are we from noisome damps of pesthouse free?
 And drink our souls the sweet ethereal air?
 O thou! or Knight, or God! who holdest there
 That fiend, oh keep him in eternal chains!
 But what for us, the children of Despair,
 Brought to the brink of hell, what hope remains?
 Repentance does itself but aggravate our pains."

LXIX.

The gentle Knight, who saw their rueful case,
 Let fall adown his silver beard some tears.
 "Certes," quoth he, "it is not e'en in grace
 T' undo the past, and eke your broken years:
 Nathless, to nobler worlds Repentance rears,
 With humble hope, her eye; to her is given
 A power the truly contrite hearts that cheers;
 She quells the brand by which the rocks are riven;
 She more than merely softens, she rejoices Heaven.

LXX.

"Then patient bear the suff'rings you have earn'd,
 And by these suff'rings purify the mind;
 Let wisdom be by past misconduct learn'd;
 Or pious die, with penitence resign'd;
 And to a life more happy and refin'd,
 Doubt not, you shall, new creatures, yet arise.
 'Till then, you may expect in me to find
 One who will wipe your sorrow from your eyes,
 One who will soothe your pangs, and wing you to the skies."

LXXI.

They silent heard, and pour'd their thanks in tears :
 " For you," resum'd the Knight with sterner tone,
 " Whose hard dry hearts th' obdurate demon sears,
 That villain's gifts will cost you many a groan ;
 In dolorous mansion long you must bemoan
 His fatal charms, and weep your stains away :
 Till, soft and pure as infant goodness grown,
 You feel a perfect change: then, who can say
 What grace may yet shine forth in Heaven's eternal day ?"

LXXII.

This said, his powerful wand he wav'd anew :
 Instant, a glorious angel-train descends,
 The Charities, to wit, of rosy hue ;
 Sweet love their looks a gentle radiance lends,
 And with seraphic flame compassion blends.
 At once, delighted, to their charge they fly :
 When lo ! a goodly hospital ascends,
 In which they bade each lenient aid be nigh,
 That could the sick-bed smooth of that sad company.

LXXIII.

It was a worthy edifying sight,
 And gives to human kind peculiar grace,
 To see kind hands attending day and night,
 With tender ministry, from place to place.
 Some prop the head ; some from the pallid face
 Wipe off the faint cold dews weak Nature sheds ;
 Some reach the healing draught : the whilst, to chase
 The fear supreme, around their soften'd beds,
 Some holy man by prayer all opening Heaven dispreps.

LXXIV.

Attended by a glad acclaiming train,
Of those he rescued had from gaping hell,
Then turn'd the Knight; and, to his hall again
Soft-pacing, sought of peace the mossy cell :
Yet down his cheeks the gems of pity fell,
To see the helpless wretches that remain'd,
There left through delves and deserts dire to yell ;
Amaz'd, their looks with pale dismay were stain'd,
And, spreading wide their hands, they meek repentance
feign'd.

LXXV.

But ah ! their scorned day of grace was past :
For (horrible to tell !) a desert wild
Before them stretch'd, bare, comfortless, and vast ;
With gibbets, bones, and carcasses defil'd.
There nor trim field, nor lively culture smil'd ;
Nor waving shade was seen, nor fountain fair ;
But sands abrupt on sands lay loosely pil'd,
Through which they flound'ring toil'd with painful care,
Whilst Phœbus smote them sore, and fir'd the cloudless
air.

LXXVI.

Then, varying to a joyless land of bogs,
The sadden'd country a grey waste appear'd,
Where nought but putrid steams and noisome fogs
For ever hung on drizzly Auster's beard ;
Or else the ground, by piercing Caurus sear'd,
Was jagg'd with frost, or heap'd with glazed snow ;
Through these extremes a ceaseless round they steer'd,
By cruel fiends still hurried to and fro,
Gaunt Beggary and Scorn, with many hell-hounds moe.

LXXVII.

The first was with base dunghill rags yclad,
 Tainting the gale, in which they flutter'd light ;
 Of morbid hue his features, sunk and sad ;
 His hollow eyne shook forth a sickly light ;
 And o'er his lank jawbone, in piteous plight,
 His black rough beard was matted rank and vile ;
 Direful to see ! a heart-appalling sight !
 Meantime foul scurf and blotches him defile ;
 And dogs, where'er he went, still barked all the while.

LXXVIII.

The other was a fell despightful fiend ;
 Hell holds none worse in baleful bower below ;
 By pride, and wit, and rage, and rancour, keen'd ;
 Of man alike, if good or bad, the foe :
 With nose upturn'd, he always made a show
 As if he smelt some nauseous scent ; his eye
 Was cold and keen, like blast from boreal snow ;
 And taunts he casten forth most bitterly.
 Such were the twain that off drove this ungodly fry.

LXXIX.

E'en so through Brentford town, a town of mud,
 A herd of bristly swine is prick'd along ;
 The filthy beasts, that never chew the cud,
 Still grunt, and squeak, and sing their troublous song,
 And oft they plunge themselves the mire among ;
 But aye the ruthless driver goads them on,
 And aye of barking dogs the bitter throng
 Makes them renew their unmelodious moan ;
 Ne ever find they rest from their unresting fone.

GLOSSARY.

- Archimage*, the chief, or greatest of magicians and enchanters.
Apaid, paid.
Appal, affright.
Atween, between.
Ay, always.
Bale, sorrow, trouble, misfortune.
Benempt, named.
Blazon, painting, displaying.
Breme, cold, raw.
Carol, to sing songs of joy.
Caurus, the north-east wind.
Certes, certainly.
Dan, a word prefixed to names.
Deftly, skilfully.
Depainted, painted.
Drowsy-head, drowsiness.
Eath, easy.
Eftsoons, immediately, often, afterwards.
Eke, also.
Fays, fairies.
Gear or *Geer*, furniture, equipage, dress.
Glaive, sword. (Fr.)
Glee, joy, pleasure.
Han, have.
Hight, named, called: and sometimes it is used for *is called*. See Stanza vii.
Idless, idleness.
Imp, child or offspring; from the Saxon *impan*, to graft or plant.
Kest, for cast.
Lad, for led.
Lea, a piece of land or meadow.
Libbard, leopard.
Lig, to lie.
Losel, a loose idle fellow.
Louting, bowing, bending.
Lithe, loose, lax.
Mell, mingle.
Moe, more.
Moil, to labour.
Mote, might.
Muchel or *Mochel*, much, great.
Nathless, nevertheless.
Ne, nor.
Needments, necessities.
Noursling, a child that is nursed.
Noyance, harm.
Prankt, coloured, adorned, gaily.
Perdie (Fr. *par Dieu*), an old oath.
Pricked through the forest, rode through the forest.
Sear, dry, burnt up.
Sheen, bright, shining.
Sicker, surely.
Soot, sweet, or sweetly.
Sooth, true or truth.
Stound, misfortune, pang.
Sweltry, sultry, consuming with heat.
Swink, to labour.
Smackt, savoured.
Thrall, slave.

Transmew'd, transformed.

Vild, vile.

Unkempt (Lat. *incomptus*), unadorned.

Ween, to think, be of opinion.

Weet, to know, to weet, to wit.

Whilom, ere-while, formerly.

Wight, man.

Wis for *Wist*, to know, think, understand.

Wonne (a noun), dwelling.

Wroke, wreakt.

N.B.—The letter Y is frequently placed in the beginning of a word

by Spenser, to lengthen it a syllable, and *en* at the end of a word for the same reason, as *withouten*, *casten*, &c.

Yborn, born.

Yblent, or *blent*, blended, mingled.

Yclad, clad.

Ycleped, called, named.

Yfere, together.

Ymollen, melted.

Yode (preter tense of *yede*), went.



NOTES.

P. 23, l. 26.

THE furthest of the western islands of Scotland.

P. 52, l. 25.

A young lady, well known to the author, who died at the age of eighteen, in the year 1738.

P. 54, l. 28.

Which blows constantly between the tropics from the east, or the collateral points, the north-east and south-east; caused by the pressure of the rarefied air on that before it, according to the diurnal motion of the sun from east to west.

P. 54, l. 32.

In all climates between the tropics, the sun, as he passes and re-passes in his annual motion, is twice a year vertical, which produces this effect.

P. 57, l. 16.

In all the regions of the torrid zone, the birds, though more beautiful in their plumage, are observed to be less melodious than ours.

P. 59, l. 29.

The river that runs through Siam, on whose banks a vast multitude of those insects called fire-flies make a beautiful appearance at night.

P. 64, l. 1 & 3.

Typhon and Ecnephia, names of particular storms or hurricanes, known only between the tropics.

P. 64, l. 4.

Called by sailors the Ox-eye, being in appearance at first no bigger.

P. 64, l. 18.

Vasco de Gama, the first who sailed round Africa, by the Cape of Good Hope, to the East Indies.

P. 64, l. 27.

Don Henry, third son to John the First, King of Portugal. His strong genius to the discovery of new countries was the chief source of all the modern improvements in navigation.

P. 65, l. 37.

These are the causes supposed to be the first origin of the plague, in Dr. Mead's elegant book on that subject.

P. 110, l. 26.

The Muscovites call the Riphean Mountains *Weliki Camenypoys*, that is, the *Great Stony Girdle*; because they suppose them to encompass the whole earth.

P. 110, l. 35.

A range of mountains in Africa, that surround almost all Monomotapa.

P. 147, l. 7.

A character in "The Conscious Lovers," written by Sir Richard Steele.

P. 153, l. 7.

M. de Maupertuis, in his book on the "Figure of the Earth," after having described the beautiful lake and mountain of Niemi in Lapland, says, "From this height we had opportunity several times to see those vapours rise from the lake which the people of the country call Haltios, and which they deem to be the guardian spirits of the mountains. We had been frightened with stories of bears that haunted this place, but saw none. It seemed rather a place of resort for fairies and genii than bears."

P. 153, l. 8.

The same author observes, "I was surprised to see upon the banks of this river (the Tenglio) roses of as lively a red as any that are in our gardens."

P. 154, l. 21.

Sir Hugh Willoughby, sent by queen Elizabeth to discover the north-east passage.

P. 186, l. 2.

The following lines of this stanza were written by a friend of the author (since understood to have been Lord Lyttleton), and were designed to portray the character of Thomson.

THE END.

